



























...makes its  
...of peculiar interest to the Church.  
The Presbyterian missionary, Rev. Sheldon Jackson, reported the organization of twenty-two churches, nearly all of which will soon be strong, self-supporting churches.

The Sidney (Iowa) church will soon have its church building completed, while Bedford, Red Oak Junction, Glenwood, Atlantic, and Avoca churches in Iowa, and Lincoln and Pawnee City churches in Nebraska, expect to complete church buildings during the summer.

A special work of grace was reported in the churches at Council Bluffs, Iowa; Brownville, Bellevue, and Pawnee City, Nebraska. Few Presbyteries have been so favored from on high, and few have done so much missionary work within the Re-united Church.

The number of ministers has been reinforced by the addition of the Revs. A. Fitz Randolph, V. D. Sheely, E. Avery, H. P. Peck, G. N. Swann, J. R. Westcott, W. E. Hamilton, H. C. Cameron, and J. Long, licentiate, while a number of theological students are spending their summer vacation in missionary labor. Still the call is for more laborers into the harvest.

The Rev. J. R. Westcott was installed pastor over the Clarinda church during the sessions of the Presbytery, and a committee appointed to install the Rev. H. C. Cameron over the church at Plattsmouth, Nebraska.

The church at Nebraska City has invited the Rev. W. E. Hamilton to become stated supply for one year.

The Rev. Sheldon Jackson having resigned his position as Presbyterian missionary, to give his undivided attention to the mission work in the Territories, it was accepted with expressions of high regard for his zealous and successful labors, and the Rev. George Carroll, the missionary of the Presbytery of Omaha, recommended to the United Board to fill the vacancy.

The Rev. T. H. Cleland, Jr., was chosen ministerial delegate to the Assembly, and Judge E. H. Sears, elder.

May the blessing of God follow these abundant labors, and work out of them all His highest glory.

OCCIDENT.



resigned his connection with the Second Presbyterian church there, and is coming East to rest and spend two or three months. His address, however, will remain Omaha, Neb., as heretofore, until further notice. From one of the Omaha papers we learn that the friends of Mr. Dimmick—the church having split and the larger portion sided with him—called upon him and his estimable lady on a “recent evening, and presented them with four hundred dollars in money, and valuable gifts worth one hundred dollars more, as a token of their high regard and affection for them. The presentation remarks were made by George W. Ambrose, Esq., who did the subject justice in a brief manner, and the response of Rev. F. M. Dimmick was feelingly expressed, after which a poem by Miss Lottie Jones was read. The occasion was one of the most enjoyable we have witnessed in many a year.”

Rev. C. Sanders wishes to announce to the German population of Fremont that he will preach here at the Schoolhouse, in the German language, on Sunday, the 6th day of June, and from that time every other Sunday.

C. SANDERS.

A Presbyterian Church was organized in the northwest corner of Washington, Co., on Sabbath, May 30, by Rev. Sheldon Jackson.

Already the Board of Church Erection is unable to give even one-third the cost of building small houses of worship. The people here are poor—produce at so great a distance from market, very cheap, and if the home Church cannot aid us at least one-half in the cost of building churches, other branches of the Christian Church will possess the field. This is a solemn fact. Episcopalians and Methodists especially are building churches all over this vast country, *entirely* from their missionary funds. The current expenses and contributions of the Boards cannot be decreased if the cause of our beloved Church is to be maintained in this region.

#### VARIOUS ITEMS.

Our church building in this city is rapidly approaching completion. We are hoping to



REV. J. C. SLOAN was installed pastor of the church of Lyons, on the evening of June 24, by a committee of the Presbytery of Omaha. Rev. J. M. Peebles, of Decatur, who organized this church several years ago, and was until lately its minister, conducted the introductory service; Rev. Geo. L. Little preached the sermon and delivered the charge to the pastor, and Rev. W. J. Young, of Tekamah, delivered the charge to the people. This church has been greatly prospered under the ministry of Mr. Sloan, having increased its membership from eight to over sixty. 1879

AT Kenesaw, Nebraska, a church was organized, on the 16th of January, by the synodical missionary. It will be ministered to for the present by G. C. Giffen, a licentiate of the Presbytery of Kearney, who preaches also at Lowell and Osco, in Kearney County. 1879

A CHURCH of nine members, with one elder, was organized by Rev. George L. Little, synodical missionary, at Superior, Nebraska, January 12. This new church is united with the one in Nelson, the county seat, in a mission charge under Rev. E. M. Knox, who also preached at several other points in the county. 79

has been appointed by the Board of Home Missions as Synodical Missionary for Nebraska. All correspondence in regard to mission work in Nebraska should be addressed to him, at Omaha, Neb. Mr. Little has been a long time in the West, and is well acquainted with all phases of the work. He is welcomed to the synodical work. 1878

REV. GEO. L. LITTLE has been appointed by the Board of Home Missions as Synodical Missionary for Nebraska. All correspondence in regard to mission work in Nebraska should be addressed to him, at Omaha, Neb. Mr. Little has been a long time in the West, and is well acquainted with all phases of the work. He is welcomed to the synodical work. 1878

NEBRASKA.—The Presbytery of Kearney has organized six home mission churches since its last stated meeting. 1876

AT Kenesaw, Nebraska, a church was organized, on the 16th of January, by the synodical missionary. It will be ministered to for the present by G. C. Giffen, a licentiate of the Presbytery of Kearney, who preaches also at Lowell and Osco, in Kearney County. 1879

A CHURCH of nine members, with one elder, was organized by Rev. George L. Little, synodical missionary, at Superior, Nebraska, January 12. This new church is united with the one in Nelson, the county seat, in a mission charge under Rev. E. M. Knox, who also preached at several other points in the county.

FREMONT, NEBRASKA.—The Presbyterian Church of Fremont, Neb., was dedicated to the worship of God January 3, 1875. Rev. George D. Stewart, D. D., of Omaha, preached morning and evening. The historical report and the dedicatory prayer were made by Rev. A. S. Foster. The church was organized November 23, 1873. The building, commenced August 20, 1874, is 32 x 50, and will seat 200 persons. The windows are of stained glass. The tower is seventy-eight feet high. Total cost of lot and building, \$3,650. This church now numbers twenty-six members. 1875

REV. J. C. SLOAN was installed pastor of the church of Lyons, on the evening of June 24, by a committee of the Presbytery of Omaha. Rev. J. M. Peebles, of Decatur, who organized this church several years ago, and was until lately its minister, conducted the introductory service; Rev. Geo. L. Little preached the sermon and delivered the charge to the pastor, and Rev. W. J. Young, of Tekamah, delivered the charge to the people. This church has been greatly prospered under the ministry of Mr. Sloan, having increased its membership from eight to over sixty. 1879

## The New Presbytery of Kearney.

1873

The Synod of Iowa South, at its last meeting, set apart the western part of Nebraska, lying west of a line running east of Nuckolls County, as the field to be covered by a new Presbytery, to be called Kearney. According to the direction of the Synod, the five ministers laboring in this field met at Kearney Junction, November 18, at half past seven P. M., and were organized into a Presbytery by the appointee of the Synod, Rev. Nahum Gould. The organization was preceded by a sermon by Rev. Geo. A. Hutchison, of North Platte, Nebraska, on 1 Tim. vi. 20.

The following constitute the ministerial roll of the Presbytery: Revs. Nahum Gould, Geo. W. Newell, Chas. S. Marvin, Jas. Griffes and Geo. A. Hutchison. Two churches were represented by elders, and more would have been if a mistake had not been made about the time. Rev. Geo. W. Newell preached on the second evening in the school-house where our church holds its services. Rev. Jas. Griffes labors at Kearney Junction, Hastings and Aurora. The latter church very lately organized through his agency. Rev. Geo. A. Hutchison was elected the clerk and treasurer of the Presbytery. Rev. Jas. Griffes and others were appointed a committee to bring before the other Presbyteries of the State the subject of the founding of a Presbyterian College at Hastings or at some other good point. The Presbytery seemed to be convinced that she should from the first give her meetings a devotional character, and to that end passed a rule that two public religious exercises should be held every day of each session. The Presbytery of Kearney is small and weak, yet her ten churches is the nucleus of a respectably sized and influential Presbytery.

GEO. A. HUTCHISON,  
Stated Clerk.

Nebraska.—TECUMSEH.—The Presbyterian Church, Rev. A. S. Powell, minister, are finishing a neat church building which they expect to dedicate about the 22d.

1874



dedicate it to God's service the first Sabbath in October. The building will cost about \$5,000. It is a neat Gothic building, 31 by 53 feet, and will seat 230 persons. The Board of Church Erection has promised aid to the amount of \$1,000. And had it not been for the Christian liberality of a gentleman residing in Baltimore, we could not have built a house of worship at all. Our membership has increased during six months, from ten to nearly fifty, and our large congregation is continually increasing. With our new house of worship we hope to grow rapidly in numbers and in the grace of God.

The church at Seward is without a pastor. The Rev. George B. Smith, a student of the Seminary at Allegheny, Pa., has been preaching to this people during the summer with great acceptance. This field should not be left vacant.

We have a little church at Ashland also now without a pastor. Ashland is the county town of Saunders county, and will soon be a large and thriving place. Who will come to our aid? Letters may be addressed to the Rev. T. H. Cleland, Jr., Council Bluffs, Iowa; or to ———, care of Parson Page, Lincoln, Nebraska.

---

**Churches Organized.** — A Presbyterian church of twelve members was organized at Avoca, Iowa, on Sabbath, July 24, by the Rev. Melancthon Hughes, and the Rev. Geo. R. Carroll, District Secretary for North-western Iowa.

—On Sabbath, July 24, the Rev. Sheldon Jackson, assisted by Mr. Josiah Welch, licentiate, organized a Presbyterian church of nine members at West Point, Nebraska. West Point is a flourishing county seat and railroad town. The labors of Mr. Welch among that people have been much blessed, and very general regret is expressed that he must so soon leave them to return to the Seminary.

—A committee, consisting of the Rev. T. H. Cleland, Jr., Rev. George R. Carroll, Rev. Sheldon Jackson, and Mr. Thomas J. Sherrard, organized a strong Presbyterian church in the country, six miles east of Council Bluffs, on Sabbath, July 21. This enterprise is the result of the efficient labors of Mr. Sherrard during his Seminary vacation.

—The Rev. Mr. Dimmick, of Omaha, Nebraska, has resigned his connection with the Second Presbyterian church of that city.



## MORE LABORERS IN IOWA AND NEBRASKA.

We need at least a half dozen faithful ministers for Western Iowa and Nebraska at once. The sooner they come the better. These newly-organized churches that have been supplied by students from the different seminaries during the Summer, will soon be left without the Gospel. They are beginning to ask, "What shall we do?" And we, who are on this field, all white for the harvest, with so few laborers, are asking, "What *shall we* do?" And we ask the question with the deepest solicitude. Unless we get help soon some of these churches will, we greatly fear, be lost to us for all time to come. They must and will have the Gospel, and if we cannot give it to them, they will be driven to the necessity of looking elsewhere for the bread of life.

Who will come in the spirit of the divine Master and enter this glorious harvest-field, and gather these precious sheaves for Christ?

Letters addressed to me in relation to these fields will be promptly answered.

GEORGE R. CARROLL,  
Council Bluffs, Iowa.

### CHURCHES ORGANIZED.

A Presbyterian church of twelve members was organized at Avoca, Iowa, on Sabbath, July 24th, by Rev. Melancthon Hughs and Rev. George R. Carroll, District Secretary for Northwestern Iowa.

On Sabbath, July 24th, the Rev. Sheldon Jackson, assisted by Mr. Josiah Welch, licentiate, organized a Presbyterian church of nine members at West Point, a flourishing county seat and railroad town in Western Nebraska. Mr. Welch's labors in that vicinity have been much blessed, and great regret is expressed that he must so soon leave to return to the Seminary.

A committee, consisting of Rev. T. H. Cleland, Jr., Rev. George R. Carroll, Rev. Sheldon Jackson, and Mr. Thomas Sherrard, licentiate, organized a strong Presbyterian church on Sabbath, July 31st, in the country six miles east of Council Bluffs. This enterprise is the result of the efficient labors of Mr. Sherrard during his seminary vacation.

**Ashland.**—A Presbyterian church of fourteen members was organized Sabbath, June 26th, at Ashland, Neb., by Rev. Sheldon

nearly every organized county, with fifty-two ministers, most of them in active service, and a membership of about 3,000, or one to every hundred of the population, which is the average for our Western States.

There has been unusual activity in the building of churches, no less than fourteen neat, substantial houses of worship having been erected during the year, and all dedicated to the Master free of debt. We have now altogether forty-two church edifices in the State. The churches erected during the past year are mainly in central locations, in growing towns on our great lines of travel, as at Hastings, on the Burlington and Missouri Railway; Fairbury, on the St. Joseph and Denver; North Platte, Grand Island, Columbus and Papillion, on the Union Pacific; and Humboldt, on the Atchison and Nebraska. These churches, well housed and ministered to by faithful pastors, will soon grow into self-support, and become the fostering mothers of other and feebler churches. We in the West are deeply grateful to our brethren in the East, who are aiding us so liberally through our Board of Home Missions and Church Erection. We send them the assurance that we are trying vigorously to help ourselves, and are living in hope that in coming years, with the increase of outward prosperity, and with the blessing of God on our church work, we will be able to help ourselves yet more and more, and to help others also.

Our churches generally are now looking upward for the descent of the Holy Spirit, and are entering on earnest, co-operative work for the conversion of souls and the reviving and strengthening of "the things that remain." We need nothing so much as "the times of refreshing." Brethren of the East, pray for us. G. L. L.

---

REV. JAMES D. KERR, of Nebraska City, has been commissioned Superintendent of Home Missions for Nebraska. Mr. Kerr was warmly recommended for the position by the Presbyterians of that city, and has before him a wide and growing field. We cordially welcome him to the arduous and responsible work, and wish him abundant success.

Jackson, assisted by Mr. S. A. Shave, licentiate, through whose labors the church was gathered. Ashland is a flourishing county seat on the line of the B. and M. R. railroad, Nebraska division.

**Corinne.**—The organization of a Presbyterian church of ten members at Corinne, Utah, was completed on the evening of July 14th. The services were conducted by Rev. E. E. Bayliss, minister in charge.

## NOTES FROM NEBRASKA.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN.]

Lincoln, Nebraska, Sept. 12, 1870.

*Messrs. Editors*—I am sure that warm friends in the East take great pleasure in reading the details of missionary work in the West. The nature of the country, its growth, the success of all educational efforts, the number and size of churches—above all, the great and pressing needs of this "*Great West*" are matters of the first importance, not only to the Church, but the whole nation. There are mighty problems to be solved, terrible conflicts to be fought upon this border land, and if "advices from the front" are dull and dry, it is perhaps because those who should rouse the Church to the magnitude of her work are feeding the people upon "watermelons!" The missionaries who are toiling and weeping in this vast wilderness have no time for any thing more "*juicy*" than hard facts and tearful eyes. It will not go well with the Church when that time shall come that the *reserve corps* shall ridicule the cries of want which come up from the vanguard. When ordered by the Lord of Hosts to go up and possess the land swarming with foreign races already, it becomes the Church, while feasting on the "good things" of the present, to heed the signs of the times, and listen to the voices from the front. And I think those who *contribute* either in labor or money to the *advance* of Presbyterianism in the West, are always interested in the workmen and their work.

Already we begin to fear the effect of attempting to raise the "Five Million Fund."

### NEBRASKA.

On the 24th ult., Rev. Sheldon Jackson, assisted by Mr. Josiah Welch, licentiate, organized a Presbyterian church of nine members at West Point, a flourishing county seat and railroad town in Nebraska. Mr. Welch's labors in that vicinity have been much blessed and great regret is expressed that he must leave so soon to return to the Seminary. Rev. Francis M. Dimmick has resigned his position as stated supply of the Second church, Omaha.

The Presbytery of Omaha met April 8, at Onnawa, Iowa, and was opened with a sermon by Rev. Alex. Sutherland, of Schuyler, Nebraska.

Rev. Wm. Pelan was chosen Moderator, and John L. Gage, Temporary Clerk. Revs. A. T. Wood and Alex. Sutherland were received, and their names placed on the roll. Three churches were received under care of the Presbytery. They were new organizations. Rev. Geo. R. Carroll and Eld. J. H. Kellom were chosen Commissioners to the General Assembly, and Rev. William Pelan and Eld. A. Rockwell alternates. The pastoral relations existing between Rev. F. M. Dimmick and the Omaha church were dissolved.

## NEBRASKA. 1879

Although the youngest but one of the whole family of States, having been admitted as a State in 1867, Nebraska is fast coming to the front as one of our richest agricultural and stock-producing States. It has now 4,000,000 acres of land under cultivation, and has raised the past year (1878) 20,000,000 bushels of wheat, 50,000,000 bushels of corn, 700,000 head of hogs, and 550,000 head of cattle. The population of the State has increased from 70,000 in 1867 to 350,000 in 1878. At our present rate of increase, it is confidently expected that in 1880, when the next federal census is taken, the population of the State will be nearly, if not quite, half a million. No State in the Union has better school facilities nor an ampler school endowment. The permanent school fund, including unsold land, amounts to about \$15,000,000. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction reports 103,737 scholars in the public schools. A State Normal School is well sustained at Peru, and a State University at Lincoln amply endowed, and with an efficient faculty of ten professors and an attendance of about 300 pupils.

The religious interests of the State are cared for by the leading denominations of Christians, of which the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregationalist are the most active and aggressive. Our Presbyterian Church is well manned, and is doing efficient work in every part of the State. We have now ninety-six churches, one or more in



NPP

J137

Vol 52

2

(Copy)

Osceola, Iowa, April 24, 1869.

Rev. Sheldon Jackson,  
Dear Brother:

By the unanimous vote of  
the Presbytery of Des Moines in session  
at Osceola, April 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, you  
are appointed and invited to act as Dis-  
trict Missionary in Central and Western  
Iowa, as far as this Presbytery has juris-  
diction.

(signed) Rev. D. S. Tappan,  
Moderator,  
J. M. Batchelder  
Stated Clerk,  
Geo. Kruck,  
Temporary Clerk.

(Copy)

Rev. Sheldon Jackson,  
Dear Brother:

You are hereby appointed by the  
Presbytery of Missouri River as Superin-  
tendent of Missions for Western Iowa, Ne-  
braska, Dakota, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and  
Utah, or as far as our jurisdiction ex-  
tends.

Done in Session at Sioux City,  
Iowa, the 1st Day of May, A.D., 1869.

(signed) C. D. Roberts,  
Moderator,  
J. T. Baird,  
Stated Clerk,  
T. H. Cleland,  
Temporary Clerk.

3  
(COPY)

Rev. Sheldon Jackson,

Dear Brother:

The Presbytery of Fort Dodge have heartily concurred in the action of the Presbyteries of Des Moines and Missouri River, and do hereby unanimously appoint you Superintendent of Missions in our bounds.

Done in Session at Clarksville, Iowa, this 8th day of May, 1869.

(signed) R. Merrill,

Moderator ,

Geo. Graham,

Stated Clerk,

Samuel Rees,

Temporary Clerk.



23  
NEBRASKA CITY, Nov. 1, 1868.

Messrs. Editors—Permit an humble labourer in the *far West* to emphasize, if possible, the appeal lately issued by the Secretary of the Board of Domestic Missions. This Presbytery (Missouri River) is peculiarly a missionary field. Only two churches are self-sustaining. The Presbytery embraces a large territory—Western Iowa for an hundred miles east of the Missouri river, and the whole State of Nebraska. This vast field is rapidly filling up with an active, energetic people, and demands the immediate attention of Christian labourers. We should go forward, but on account of the embarrassment of the Board we must go backward.

When we look to the West, we see the whole broad and fertile State of Nebraska, all within the bounds of this Presbytery, and all to be occupied. The new capital, Lincoln, has come into importance within a year. The Presbyterians there are anxious for a church, but they cannot at once afford a minister a competent support. The capital will be a centre of influence. We should immediately enter the field, and place a watchman upon that tower; but we can do nothing. The Board refuses to occupy new fields.

The people of Seward county have been clamorous for an organization, and Presbytery granted their request; but who shall break unto them the bread of life?

I have been specific enough, and yet the half has not been told. Towns are springing up on the great Union Pacific Railroad which demand our attention. It makes the heart sick to review the vast fields white for the harvest, and to think that we cannot even feed and clothe the reapers. The Christian people here do nobly; they give liberally; but they are not able to bear the whole burden.

There are no rival Presbyterian churches in this vast region, to my knowledge. There are no energies wasted by conflict. Re-union will not accomplish the work to be done here, except as it stirs the Church to more energetic effort. While re-union is occupying so much attention in the whole camp of Israel, these Western

4  
picket-guards feel that they are almost forgotten, and are left to bear the blunt of the battle alone. Those who are bearing our standards directly against the enemy, deserve and claim a share of attention and support. It is too much to ask earnest, faithful men to preach the gospel, and employ all their energies in the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom, and yet not even be supplied with the necessary food and clothing. If they are compelled by want, they must engage in some worldly employment, and then who will be accountable to Almighty God for this secularized ministry?

I do not write thus warmly and earnestly because I am personally suffering. My church is no longer dependent, and now affords a comfortable support; but no one alive to the interests of Christ's church, can look over this vast missionary field without being greatly moved.

Your servant in Christ,

J. C. ELLIOTT.

#### A PROSPEROUS MISSIONARY WORK.

129  
Rev. J. M. Wilson, of the last graduating class of the Chicago Seminary, was commissioned, by our Board of Foreign Missions, as a laborer among the Indians in Nebraska, and entered upon his work in May last. He now writes that his mission has nearly five hundred Winnebagoes in its day schools. It has also three large Sabbath schools, which are constantly increasing in numbers and influence. In his own class, Mr. Wilson has four or five pupils who seem seriously concerned for their salvation. Rev. W. Hamilton, the veteran missionary whom Mr. Wilson is assisting, hopes to soon organize a church among the Omahas, about twenty of whom are hopeful lovers of our Lord, and ready to unite in a church organization.

In a recent letter I inadvertently stated that, in these missions, the Rev. Joseph M. Wilson was "assisting" the Rev. Mr. Hamilton. This is not the fact. While these brethren co-operate, their fields of labor are distinct. Mr. Hamilton is stationed at the Omaha mission, while Mr. Wilson's field is among the Winnebagoes, nine miles further up the river. The Winnebago schools are supported and controlled by government.



Under date of February 2d, Mr. Wilson writes from the Omaha mission that *thirty-four* Omahas are rejoicing in Christ. Two white employees of the mission were also hopefully converted during a recent series of meetings.

Under date of the 28th of February, the Rev. H. M. Giftner, of Pawnee City, Nebraska, writes:—"You will rejoice with me in what the Lord is doing among us here. Meetings have been in progress for one week at one of my preaching points, eight miles from this place. As the result of these, *twenty-one* have united with our church—two by letter, and nineteen on examination. Others are anxiously inquiring the way of life, and the meetings seem to be growing in interest. A deep feeling pervades my entire congregation."

OMAHA, Neb.—The Rev. Thomas McCague is doing a good work in this place. He goes around from house to house, talking and praying with the people and distributing religious books and Bibles, and thus he gets acquainted with them and is by this discipline better fitted for the duties of the Sabbath. His congregations are becoming larger each Sabbath, and the hope is that some perishing sinners will be saved. Since the little church was completed, the Sabbath School has been prospered, having an average attendance of 60 scholars. This will gratify the friends who have aided brother McCague in donations for his work. May every effort to build up the Lord's cause be prospered.

LUKE DORLAND

Omaha, Neb.—Fourteen were added to the church (Rev. F. M. Dimmick, pastor) on the 2d Sabbath of the year.

### Education in Nebraska.

Messrs. Editors—The following letter deserves a place in your columns. Nebraska possesses a fine soil, which, with the dry, cool, regular climate, adapts it especially to the cultivation of wheat and other cereals, and to the raising of superior cattle and sheep. Invalids freshen and revive there. Its population is possessed of intelligence and energy, and its business is characterized by activity and enterprise. The great artery of trans-

continental trade, the Union Pacific Railroad, passes through its whole length.

Nebraska City, whence our correspondent writes, lies upon the western side of the giant Missouri river, not far above where the line between the States of Iowa and Missouri meets the opposite shore. Some enterprising teacher would do well to correspond with the writer of the letter below, who is the pastor of a flourishing Presbyterian church, and will be happy to give any further information.

Very respectfully yours, W. S.  
Board of Education, Philad'a., Jan. 13.

"NEBRASKA CITY, Jan. 8, 1863.

\* \* \* \* \*

"For some time members of the Presbytery of Missouri River have felt that there should be an institution of learning under the care of the Presbytery. At the last meeting they placed the whole matter in the hands of a committee of five. Four of that committee are ruling elders—I am the only minister on the committee. That an academy would be entirely successful, can scarcely be doubted. It seemed to be the desire of the members of the Presbytery to locate the academy at this place. Not only would it be supported by local patronage here, but from abroad. The element is principally Presbyterian, yet the parish school of the Episcopal church is overflowing. They rejected seventy applications last term on account of want of room. The Episcopal church also has a boarding-school for boys, within two miles of the city, which is full. They can only accommodate thirty, but they had many more applications. The most of the boys sent to that school are from other denominations. I was informed, on good authority, that two-thirds of the school properly belonged under Presbyterian influence, and would have patronized a Presbyterian institution. A number of parents sent their sons under protest, but we had no institution to take its place. That Church in this State is very *High*. None of the students, even at the request of parents, are permitted to attend my church or Sabbath-school.

"I mention these cases to show that a Presbyterian academy would succeed. This new State is rapidly filling up. New towns are springing up so numer-



ously, that if we would keep even with the tide, in moral and religious culture, we must be doing now. The new settlers are, to a great extent, Presbyterian. Forty-four have been added to my church upon certificate during the last eighteen months.

"The great drawback is that we are not able to find a suitable man to take charge of such an institution, and carry it forward with energy. I believe the committee is willing to do all in its power, if the right man could be found to take charge of the enterprise. It would require one intelligent and well educated. There are ignorant and unrefined people here, but there are also many who are highly educated. Eight or ten colleges are represented by graduates in my church and congregation. A person only willing to take charge of such an enterprise for a year or two, and who then would enter some other calling, would scarcely succeed. A man with a family, who had experience in teaching, and who purposed making that the work of his life, would be preferable. I hope that we will be able to find some man entirely qualified for the position, and who would enter upon the work with energy and zeal, for nothing will succeed in the West unless it be entered upon in earnest.

"Truly yours, J. C. ELLIOTT."

OTOE UNIVERSITY, NEBRASKA CITY.—The fall session of the Academic department of this institution closed last week. The examination of the classes continued through two days, and gave entire satisfaction to the Trustees and other friends present.

Dr. Diefendorf, the President of the institution, has surrounded himself with a corps of thoroughly competent and efficient teachers.

The University is yet in its infancy, only the Academic department having been established. At the close of the first four years, however, it will be opened out as a fully organized University, with appropriate buildings and all appointments complete.

The aim of the founder is to afford a collegiate education as cheap, thorough and safe as it can be obtained anywhere in

tiac.

The United Presbyterians have just organized a congregation in the Far-West, at Omaha, where, by the appointment of the last Assembly, Rev. Thos. Macague is laboring. They have also just completed a new house of worship in Wheeling, Va. Thus, the organization or erection of nine Presbyterian churches is reported.

**Church Organization.**—A Presbyterian church was organized on Sabbath, 14th inst., by the Rev. George R. Carroll and the Rev. Sheldon Jackson, at Lone Tree, Nebraska; the Hon. John L. Martin ruling elder. The new organization starts with thirty-eight members, and has a promising future. Lone Tree is the county seat of Merrick county, and is on the Union Pacific Railroad, 132 miles west from Omaha.

---



7  
Church Organized.—A church was organized at Bell Creek, Nebraska, on May 30th, by the Rev. Sheldon Jackson.

### Presbyterianism in Nebraska.

*Messrs. Editors*—The Presbyterian Church has not been behind in this new State. Before white men thought of permanently settling here, Presbyterian missionaries were on the field endeavoring to civilize and Christianize the Indians. The Rev. William Hamilton, (Father Hamilton, as he is now affectionately called by us younger men,) was here with the gospel long before the Union Pacific Railroad was dreamed of. The old log mission at Bellevue, and the present mission at Omaha Agency, clearly attest the interest of the Presbyterian church in the Indians.

When permanent settlements began to be made, pioneer Presbyterian ministers soon appeared, and though often discouraged and disheartened, they have labored on ever since, supported by faith and prayer. There has been constant progress from the first, but recently there has been very rapid growth. It is only recently that population began to flow in rapidly, so only recently has it been necessary for the church to take hold of the field in earnest. Three years ago there were only seven Presbyterian churches in Nebraska, now there are in the united church twenty-five (twenty Old-school, five New-school) organizations, every place of importance has been visited. There is no town of a hundred inhabitants in the State without its Presbyterian church. There are also in the State six feeble, struggling United Presbyterian churches, served by three good, orthodox, Psalm-singing ministers.

The most of these churches are very young. They are only in the infancy of their days. Sixteen of the number are not two years old. Only five of the whole number have houses of worship completed, some are endeavoring to build, while others must remain for years dependent upon school-houses, court-houses, and public halls for places of meeting. Only nine enjoy the stated means of grace. The most of our churches are only occasionally called together. Our capital, Lincoln, has neither house nor minister.

since its last meeting.

The great need of all these churches is settled ministers. Itinerants will not answer the purpose. They may rush from house to house through a village, and overflow with zeal; but their influence is feeble, and their ideas of the field imperfect. Twice, in a hurry and on short acquaintance, I selected certain persons for ruling elders, whom I thought the very men for that high office, who were afterwards found unfit for membership, and they were not received into the churches. Only the settled ministers can know the flock, and only a settled minister can show that consistent, upright, holy life which, in this country, is more necessary than preaching.

NEBRASKA.

For the Presbyterian.

### THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD OCCUPIED FOR PRESBYTERIANISM.

*Messrs. Editors*—The Rev. Sheldon Jackson, acting for the Presbytery of Missouri River, has succeeded in securing three efficient young men for missionary work along this road.

Mr. J. N. Hutchison, licentiate, will occupy the four most important towns west of Omaha, between the Missouri River and the crossing of the North Platte.

The Rev. John L. Gage, after successfully erecting two church buildings, and being permitted to reap a spiritual harvest in Minnesota, has gone to Cheyenne and Laramie, to repeat his work of laying foundations and erecting church edifices.

The Rev. M. Hughes, compelled by the state of his health to resign his charge at Bellevue, Nebraska, has gone out to Rawlins, Bryan, Ogden, and Corinne, hoping, in the bracing atmosphere of the Rocky Mountains, to do full pioneer work.

In addition to the above, the Rev. Mr. Van Arsdale has commenced with great energy a second church enterprise at Omaha, in a part of the city wholly unoccupied by other evangelical bodies.

This gives stated Presbyterian preaching at nearly every important station along this great highway of nations, between Omaha and Promontory Point—a distance of more than one thousand miles. These fields will be trying ones, and the young men greatly need the prayers and sympathies of God's people. These missions will also be costly ones; and to carry them on efficiently, and at the same



time keep up the other enterprises claiming the attention and support of the Church, will require of the churches largely increased contributions to the Board of Domestic Missions.

Correspondence of the Presbyterian.

## LETTER FROM NEBRASKA.

*Messrs. Editors*—With two others on the top of a stage coach, loaded down with mail and express matter, and crowded with passengers, I started from Nebraska City for Lincoln, on the morning of the 2d inst. There is a beauty in stage riding unknown to the East. Four live, dashing horses, though not so strong, make a more interesting team than one iron horse. There is also such spirit among the passengers, that he must be a sour and unsocial being who can remain wrapped in dignity, or refuse a hearty laugh during an hour's ride. Our horses on this occasion were not very dashing, but the morning was bright, and the passengers were merry.

Stage passengers, like railroad passengers, wish to ride fast. I have been cured. That has been frequently necessary that I might meet my appointments. On one occasion it was necessary to make unusually good time over bad roads. The *Jehu* declared that he would do his best. He went at a fearful rate, through mud holes and over rickety bridges, and across the prairie, over the gopher mounds. I was the only passenger, and the coach bounded terribly. My tall hat struck one side, then the other, then the top, till it was ruined, and my head was sore, when I plead for slower driving, declaring that I preferred missing my appointment to losing my life.

The route from Nebraska City to Lincoln passes through a rich country that is filling up very rapidly. The railroad to unite these two points is already partly graded. A prairie fire met us with its long, irresistible blazing line, but it was burning comparatively slowly, in short grass, and we passed over it unsinged.

Arriving at Lincoln, the new capital of Nebraska, we found the town, which is only eighteen months old, containing not less than one thousand inhabitants. They are not a rude, half-savage people, but as educated and refined as any community in the East. This gentleman with whom I stop is a graduate of Williams, and

strange to say, that young man who sells milk at the door, is a graduate of Hamilton, New York. On Sabbath the congregations were intelligent and attentive, and showed refinement and taste. Those who think that ministers of ordinary talents and attainments who fail in the East, may succeed in the West, make a great mistake. This western field requires the first talents, piety, and culture.

The Protestant Methodists have a flourishing society here, and have begun the erection of a fine stone church. On Sabbath we organized a Presbyterian church under favorable auspices. Short notice had been given, yet nine at once entered the organization. One elder was chosen, and in the evening installed as ruling elder in that church. He has the benefit of large experience, having served in that office for years in another State. For the present they will occupy the Senate Chamber of the capitol, but they hope to complete a house of worship of their own before the close of the summer. Lincoln will be a centre of moral, religious, and political influence in this State. The State University, the State Asylums, and all the State institutions located here, together with the fertile lands and valuable salt springs, will make this a place of no small importance. Our church should not be permitted to flag for want of a suitable minister, nor for want of means. NEBRASKA.

For the Presbyterian.

## PRESBYTERY OF MISSOURI RIVER.

*Messrs. Editors*—The Presbytery of Missouri River met in Sioux City on the 29th April. I introduce you to the Presbytery as most of the members stand on the high bluff above the city, which rises from the Missouri river hundreds of feet, almost perpendicularly. Ministers sometimes come West to *look over the field*. This Presbytery is *looking over the field*. Almost beneath their feet is the town of Sioux City. To the east, as far as the eye can reach, they view the rolling prairies of Iowa. To the west is the broad State of Nebraska. To the north-west the wild territory of Dakota; and they strain their eyes to catch a glimpse of a grove, to the north-east, said to be in the State of Minnesota.

Sioux City is a town of about twenty-five hundred inhabitants, and is growing



7 rapidly. It possesses the usual western proportion of rascals. Saloons are numerous, and are apparently well patronized. Our flesh was made to creep by being shown three ropes, dangling from the large branch of a tree; and by being told that shortly before, three thieves were there hanged by mob law. Two members of Presbytery going home from church on Sabbath evening, were endangered by a shooting affray, into which they unwittingly ran, and we were all, soon after, called out by the burning of a fine barn, the work of an incendiary.

The churches in this place are all quite small. The Presbyterian church is as large as any. It has only thirty-eight members, but is united and prospering under the faithful ministry of the Rev. A. E. Smith. There is just now more religious interest in the church than there has been for years. The earnest prayers and efforts of the members of Presbytery perhaps deepened the impression, and it is hoped that Mr. Smith now is beginning to reap the fruit of what he has been sowing in tears for years.

This is peculiarly a missionary Presbytery, and the spirit of missions seems to pervade all that it does. The subject of missions was the great topic from the opening to the close. Two missionaries to the Indians, the Rev. Mr. Hamilton and the Rev. Mr. Wilson, reported good progress. Mr. Wilson obtained the good will of the Winnebagoes, with apples and such dainties, till he won their hearts, and is now exerting a good influence over them, though none as yet have been converted. The Rev. William Hamilton reported a good work of grace among one band of the Omahas. Many have been converted, and the work still goes on. This is, however, more particularly a *home* missionary field. This great Missouri valley is rapidly filling up; railroads are being built in every direction, and new towns spring up as if by magic. No wonder the Presbytery was alive to the cause of missions. The Rev. Sheldon Jackson was elected Presbyterial missionary. He enters upon the work at once, and with his usual energy and zeal. We hope great things may be accomplished. A number of new men were recommended for new fields, and many new fields were recommended, for which we have not been able to find suitable men. Many important points demand our immediate attention. Towns are springing up on the

railroads, on the N. W., the U. P., the C. B. and St. Joe, the B. M., the R. I. and M., and on the S. C. and P., and other roads in course of construction, that must not be neglected. Eyes may be opened, when I say that this Presbytery embraces an extent of territory greater than all New England, with New York added. It extends to the Rocky Mountains. We hope to have a man soon in Helena, to look after the spiritual welfare of the miners in that distant Territory of Montana, and also to send a man to Salt Lake, the very heart of Mormondom. If the Board of Missions can give us *one-half* the assistance that we need, this Presbytery will double its ministers and its churches during the ensuing year. We must increase thus rapidly, if we keep pace with the demands of this vast and important field.

The railroads kindly returned the members of Presbytery free, which was gratifying to home missionaries with empty pockets. Superintendent Strong also kindly loaded all the members, that returned through Council Bluffs, upon an engine, and took them down to see the western wonder, the Omaha bridge, the foundation of which is now being laid. This was explored and explained to their satisfaction, when they were again loaded and returned. As, therefore, the Presbytery was introduced to you, standing upon the high bluff above Sioux City, you can now take leave of them as they are scrambling down from the pile of wood in the "tender," upon which they have had their free and merry ride.

NEBRASKA.

## DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

### Grand Island, Nebraska.

Sweeping down the Black Hills, and shooting far out into the plain, twenty-four hours on the Pacific Railroad brought us eastward from Laramie to Grand Island.

Grand Island is a small, but growing village on the Union Pacific Railroad, in the valley of the Platte, one hundred and fifty-three miles west of Omaha. It represents at present the extreme western limit of farming settlements in that section, those who would adventure further being restrained by the occasional visits of hostile Indians. The Indians being driven back, a large emigration is expected next season.



The Methodist church was the sole representative of Protestantism. The Roman Catholics have the only church building.

#### PREACHING *versus* MOSQUITOES.

An appointment being made for preaching in the school-house in the evening, one of the citizens went an hour beforehand to build a smudge before the door and smoke out the mosquitoes. In spite of smoke, however, they gathered in such numbers that it was not deemed expedient to attempt to preach. We remained long enough to organize a church and elect two good elders, after which we beat a hasty retreat.

The Presbyterian church of Grand Island enters into life with considerable promise. Two eligible lots were donated for a church building, and a committee appointed to secure funds. Before snow flies they hope to dedicate a church to the worship of God. In this enterprise they have the hearty co-operation of the Methodists.

After a comfortable night's rest in the "prophet's chamber," which, by the way, is a carpenter shop by day, we took the train to

#### COLUMBUS.

Columbus, like Grand Island, claims a population of four or five hundred. It is also the proposed junction of a railroad from Sioux City, and, according to George Francis Train, the future capital of the country, being midway between Boston and San Francisco. It is also a county seat. Like all the other villages in the Platte valley, being surrounded by agricultural lands of almost unlimited extent and unsurpassed richness, it has a hopeful future. Therefore, in the name of the Presbyterian Church, we took possession ("Begin to possess, that thou mayest inherit his land," Deut. ii. 31,) and planted another vine of promise.

Again taking the cars, forty-five miles brings us to Fremont, the junction of the Sioux City and Pacific Railroad with the Union Pacific Railroad. Transferring to the cars of the former, we were soon at the pleasant village of Blair. Blair, named after John I. Blair of New Jersey, is the point where the railroad crosses the Missouri river. The village is about six months old, and claims to have built, on an average, a house per day. Certainly its appearance would have done credit to villages of much greater age. A warm welcome awaited

us at the depot, and we were soon at home among Presbyterians whom we met for the first time. On Sabbath afternoon, August 15th, in the unplastered and unseated Methodist church, was organized the Presbyterian church of Blair, and in the evening, with much solemnity, was ordained and installed the newly elected elder. Other denominations commenced services at that point earlier than we; ours, I think, was the first organization. Two handsome lots, fronting on the public square, were donated for the church building.

On Monday we returned to

#### FREMONT.

An appointment had been made for eleven o'clock, A.M., at which time a Presbyterian church was organized and an elder duly elected—an elder that has had a theological training, and is able to go out and preach. Some of the citizens have purchased two lots, and presented them to the church. A church building is a necessity, and must be erected this fall.

Fremont is beautifully situated at the junction of the Platte and Elkhorn valleys, and claims from three to four thousand people, making it the most important place between Omaha and Cheyenne, a distance of five hundred miles. These four churches have been gathered by the summer's work of Mr. J. N. Hutchison, during a seminary vacation. The afternoon train brought me home to supper.

And thus, by the blessing of God, safely ended a missionary tour of thirty-five hundred miles, twelve hundred miles of which was by stage;—a trip involving an unusual amount of physical discomfort and suffering. But hardships and dangers were more than balanced by the great privilege of organizing eight churches, and opening up these vast sections to the work of the Church.

#### A MEMORABLE YEAR.

The year 1869, memorable in Presbyterian annals for the consummation of the Union, will also be remembered as the beginning of Presbyterianism in the territories of Arizona, Utah, Montana, Wyoming, and Dakota. This latter has some Presbyterian churches among the Indians, but I think not among the whites. It has also been a year of increased energy among the Presbyterians of Nebraska and Iowa.



For the accomplishment of this great work, the Church is indebted, through the blessing of God, to the energetic and self-denying labors of Messrs. Elliott, Giltner, Peck, and Hutchison, in Nebraska; Messrs. Day and Campbell, in Colorado; Rev. John L. Gage, Wyoming; Rev. M. Hughes, Utah; Rev. Mr. Skinner, Arizona; and Rev. D. F. McFarland, New Mexico. Last, but not least, Rev. T. H. Cleland, Jr., of Council Bluffs, Iowa, who, although ably and efficiently filling the post of pastor of one of the largest Presbyterian churches (one hundred and seventy-five members) in Iowa, has yet, with a rare devotion to missions, so given the extension of the Church his personal attention, as to add very much to the efficiency and success of the noble workers at the front.

SHELDON JACKSON.

### A CHURCH NEEDED.

Rev. M. V. Van Arsdale, a graduate of the North-western Theological Seminary, has located at the city of Omaha, and is vigorously engaged in trying to raise funds to build a church. The object is a good one. Mr. V. has the indorsement of his Presbytery, and of the President and Secretary of the Committee of Church Extension. We wish him success.

**CHURCHES ORGANIZED.**—Churches were organized by Rev. Sheldon Jackson, assisted by Rev. John L. Gage, at Laramie, Wyoming Territory, Aug. 10th, and at Grand Island, Nebraska, Aug. 12th. Assisted by Mr. J. N. Hutchison, licentiate, at Columbus, Nebraska, Aug. 13th, at Blair, Aug. 15th, at Fremont, Aug. 16th, and at Corn-  
ing, Iowa, Aug. 22d.

### JOTTINGS DOWN ON OUR SEARCH FOR THE SUNSET.—No. II

SHERMAN, Summit of the Rocky Mountains, }  
September 11th, 1869.

**Messrs. Editors**—Eight thousand two hundred and fifty feet above the surface of the sea! And yet the atmosphere is perfectly delicious, the temperature delightful. Our whole party, being fortunate enough to be on a special train, that will stop for us any where, are out, armed with field glasses, searching the mountain tops for Pike's Peak and Long's Peak, three hundred miles to the south-

ward. Whether or no the two snow-covered tips that are pointed out as those goals which have proved fatal to so many eager seekers after sudden wealth, are the veritable peaks, we cannot say. The view is most remarkable, most extraordinary. Our vocabulary will not furnish forth words enough to give even faint expression to the grandeur, the gorgeousness!

Our last letter left our party in the water, *en route* between Chicago and Omaha. We were stayed some hours, and finally floated, or swam, or waded through two miles of track covered with two feet of water, and then rode through a beautiful portion of Iowa, until we reached Council Bluffs, about mid-day.

A ferry across the Missouri, and an omnibus ride of two miles, brought us to Omaha, that first of the "mushroom cities" that owe their rise and progress to these two great railroads, the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific. The rainy season was just over, and the roads beginning to dry into firmness once more; but enough of the mud remained to tell very plainly what it had been. Our load was landed at the Cozzens House, one of four hotels about the same in style, and all indulging in Eastern prices—board per diem four dollars. We had excellent rooms, a good dinner, and the best of attendance. Then we sallied forth in quest of letters from home, and tidings of *our* engineer, to see whom, our journey had been taken. To our delight, but a few moments elapsed before he walked in, and we knew our troubles were at an end, and we under the best of guidance.

We took a gaslight drive and walk through the city after tea, going into various shops, and otherwise investigating. Omaha claims twenty thousand inhabitants, and has some very handsome houses and buildings. The next morning we spent driving around the town, up on the bluffs which lie back from the river, and in presenting our letters of introduction.

The very handsomest building is the new Presbyterian church, (New-school,) built of brick, with dark stone trimmings. It is only in progress as yet, with the finishing all to do, windows to put in, inside to complete, and so forth. It is a two-story building, with the basement arranged for Sunday-school purposes, and there the congregation now worship.—



We tried to see the Presbyterian minister, Rev. Mr. Dimmick, but failed to do so.

There are quite a number of church buildings in Omaha, most of them handsome and substantial structures; three of these are Episcopal, three Presbyterian, two Romanist, and others of various denominations.

In the afternoon we drove over to Council Bluffs. This city, though of greater age than Omaha, is but half its size. We wanted to find Rev. Sheldon Jackson, who makes his home here; but he was away upon one of his missionary tours. As he is somewhere on the line of the Union Pacific Railroad, we hope to encounter him. General Dodge, Chief Engineer of the Union Pacific Road, lives at Council Bluffs, and our party were most hospitably and pleasantly entertained at his home. He also courteously tendered us all an invitation to continue our journey westward in the "Officers' Car," which was to start the next day, conveying the committee of the Union Pacific Railroad to meet the "five eminent American citizens" appointed by Congress to examine and report upon these two great roads. Mr. Oliver Ames, President of the Union Pacific Railroad, Judge Wilson, member of Congress from Iowa, and General Dodge, formed the committee. We were very glad to accept this courtesy, and I write from the car, which might be supposed to be any thing but a car, as the couches, and easy chairs, and general appointments, are befitting an elegant drawing-room, and not a mere travelling conveyance.

At three o'clock, therefore, on Friday afternoon, a special train westward left Omaha, consisting of a baggage, commissary, and officers' car, and a Pullman sleeping car, yclept the "Chicago," fitted up in most luxuriant style, even to having a cabinet organ built in the centre. Not often, we fancy, has one train carried so many railroad dignitaries; for besides the three distinguished gentlemen mentioned above, the party included Mr. D. C. Huntington, Vice-President of the Central Pacific, Colonel Crocker, their General Superintendent, Colonel Town, Colonel Hammond, General Superintendent of the Union Pacific, Mr. Reid, Constructing Engineer, General Evans of Colorado, and President of the Denver and Pacific Road, and a number of divi-

sion superintendents and engineers.—  
About eight or ten ladies made up the party, and a pleasanter one it would be hard to find.

The afternoon's ride was a pleasant one, and we stopped, at about eight P. M., at Grand Rapids, for supper. By morning the commissary department was in full working order, and we sat down to breakfast in the "parlor" of the officers' car, a party of eighteen at one table, which was covered with the most luxurious meal. Salmon, trout fresh from the streams that morning, caught for us especially, *by telegraph*; antelope steaks, that *might* have come from the hinds we had already seen bounding away at the sound of the locomotive whistle; with every variety of breakfast comestibles that could be furnished hungry souls at any first-class hotel table. Certainly we could have no fears of suffering the pangs of hunger.

The chief amusement of the morning was the watching for "dog towns," and noting the curious antics of these prairie inhabitants. Small mounds by the thousands, arranged in regular rows resembling streets, are the signs of a "town." The inhabitants sit on top of their houses, enjoying the air and sunshine, and occasionally you see two together, but mostly it is solitary felicity. Now and then we passed a "deserted village;" whether it was "the loveliest of the plain" we had no means of deciding. We could see the signs of buffalo, left by these wild denizens, but they are of years gone by. Civilization, in the form of a railroad, has been too much for these rampant and roisterous creatures; they have followed the course of empire westward.

#### Home Missions—Destitutions in Iowa and Nebraska.

ROCHESTER, Minn., April, 1869.

Messrs. Editors—Recently having occasion to visit Nebraska, I was pained at the backwardness of our church in occupying important points. While in years past a great and good work has been done by the church in Eastern and Southern Iowa, the Western and Northern part has been most sadly, if not criminally, neglected.

If any lover of our Presbyterian Zion would have his eyes opened to these destitutions, let him take his atlas and turn to the map of Iowa. In those twenty northern counties, so well watered by a



13  
net-work of small streams—the garden portion of the whole State—in all that broad section we have but four ministers. Or conceive a line drawn from the north-east corner of Emmett county (longitude 94° 30') south across the State to the southeast corner of Ringold county, and in all the region west of that line, comprising more than one-third of the State, we have but two or three ministers. Or leaving out of view those settled along the Missouri river, and we have a region twice the size of New Jersey without a Presbyterian minister. Or travel along the line of the Iowa division of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad, and for two hundred miles east of Council Bluff, we have no minister.

Again, we have none for one hundred and fifty miles eastward of Council Bluff, on the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad; or for one hundred miles east on the Chicago, Burlington, and Missouri Railroad. There are none on the Sioux City and Pacific Railroad; nor any where in the region east of Sioux City for one hundred and twenty miles, either on the line of the McGregor and Sioux City Railroad, or the Dubuque and Sioux City Railroad. And yet along these railway lines are flourishing villages, with a population ranging from five hundred to five thousand. Then passing over into Nebraska, we find that with the exception of three or four ministers along the Missouri river, and perhaps one other, we have no ministers in that whole State.

I can not learn that we have a single minister along the line of the great Union Pacific Railroad, from Omaha to California, or in any of the territories north of that road. As a church, we are entirely unrepresented in the growing territories of Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, and Nevada, and perhaps have but one or two ministers each in Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona. And yet although new, that country is rapidly filling up.

It is estimated that the emigration into Missouri last year added 200,000 to her population. Iowa received from 150,000 to 200,000, Minnesota 100,000, Kansas 75,000, Nebraska 50,000. And this emigration bids fair to be equally large this year.

And that which flows into Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska is very largely a Presbyterian emigration, that is, a larger per centage are Presbyterian than of any

other one denomination.

And they are right in looking to their own church for the institutions of the gospel. Shall they be disappointed? Must they be compelled to seek church homes in other folds, because neglected by their own church? They certainly will be, unless our church takes a higher stand with reference to the claims the West has upon her prayers and money.

The Presbyteries of Des Moines, Fort Dodge, and Missouri River occupy this missionary field, and should more largely have the sympathy and prayers of the church.

The Rev. Mr. Elliott, of Nebraska City, and the Rev. T. H. Cleland, Jr., of Council Bluffs, are burdened by this state of things, and are doing what they can, but they have important and growing churches demanding their labors.

The Rev. Mr. Candlish, of Omaha, has, for the past season, prosecuted itinerant labors with great energy and success, but has now been called to another sphere of labor. Any ministers desiring to cast in their lot with those faithful brethren, and do pioneer work for Christ, may write for further information to the Rev. T. H. Cleland, Jr., Council Bluff, Iowa; Rev. J. M. Batchelder, Albia, Iowa; the Rev. George Graham, Clarksville, Iowa, or the Rev. James Frothingham, Lansing, Iowa.

Parties desiring fields in Minnesota, may write to our Synodical missionary, the Rev. D. C. Lyon, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Praying that the heart of the church may be more and more turned to its missionary work, I remain very truly yours,  
SHELDON JACKSON.

sciences.

## DR. CUYLER'S SUMMER LETTERS. V.

OMAHA, Aug. 4, 1869.

On Monday morning, at ten o'clock, we left Chicago; which, instead of the unmeaning appellation of "the Garden City," should be called the *Locomotive* city. It is the railroad centre of the West, and is driving at steam-engine speed towards the sovereignty of the whole Mississippi valley. We came hither by the Northwestern railway, which delivers its passengers across the Mississippi at Fulton in six hours, and at the muddy wharf of Omaha in twenty-two hours. It brought us, too, in a *palace*. Pullman is "an institution" in the West, even as our friend



Moody the lay-preacher is an institution in Chicago. His cars, with their luxurious berths and upholsteries and rich carpets, roll along through prairie cabins and rude hamlets, while at the East our residents of great cities are doomed to ride in cars fit for an emigrant train. I noticed, with some pride, that the gorgeous palace-car in our train bore the name of my native region *Cayuga*. We also had with us the *Wasatch* on her return to California from the first through trip from sea to sea.

What a garden is northern Illinois! But the fertility of Iowa quite as much surprised me. It would seem as if those two commonwealths, with their soil a mile deep, ought to give bread to the whole nation.

Omaha has lost her bridge, and is approached by a shabby ferry and a quagmire. The city already has nearly 20,000 inhabitants. In the lower part of the town about every fourth building is a hotel or a "saloon." I observed a crowd of fair-haired Norsemen sitting around a "Scandinavian Home," and a Dutch group smoking pipes before a "St. Nicholas." An hundred Teutons are tipping beer in a "Garten" across the street at this moment. These are the elements that are deluging the West. Shall the Lord have them—or the Pope—or the Devil?

I am rejoiced to find that the most beautiful church edifice in Omaha is that of our Presbyterian flock. Bro. Dimmick is now out of town. Behind the Presbyterian church rises "*the Bluff*"; and that bluff, let me say, is worth a long journey to see. It sweeps down the western side of the city; and the view from the steps of the old State Capitol on its summit, at the hour of sunset, is the most magnificent I have ever seen in the whole West. It takes in the winding Missouri with its broad green valley and its ramparts of bluff for thirty or forty miles. The private residences on this height are very beautiful. That of Keuntze the banker is very stately; while in the streets below it I saw to-day a group of Omaha Indians strolling half naked and wretched, though they were lords of the manor here ten years ago!

Omaha is destined to be the chief town on the grand route from Chicago to California. It is a capital *base-line* for Home Missions. These Western prairies have the most beautiful soil into which a plough was ever

driven. But they lack three things—they lack trees, and hills, and to a sad degree churches. During the last two days I have twice travelled for twenty-five miles through a perfect garden of fertility, and did not discover a single church of any description! Once I was in Iowa, and once in Nebraska. It is true that the regions were sparsely settled; but even where the people pitch their tents more closely, they too often build big barns before they think of even a small church for the living God. As the West feeds us with daily bread, let the richer East send them the Bread of Life. No investment will pay a larger percentage than every dollar given now to our Church Erection Board.

About four hundred Mormon converts—mostly Norwegians—came in last night, and are broiling here in the hot sun to-day. They go to Salt Lake too late—yonder locomotive is fatal to Brigham Young's beastly confederacy.

I came upon a public reading-room of the Young Men's Christian Association in Omaha, and found THE EVANGELIST on file. The able manager of the Union Pacific Railway, Col. C. G. Hammond, is a zealous Presbyterian. Our friend Gov. Bross, and Vice President Colfax go through to-morrow for California. Gen. Schofield came in last night. The Pacific Express train which leaves here every morning at nine o'clock is just off. An hundred passengers are arranging themselves in the luxurious cars for a nineteen hundred miles journey to Rufus Choate's "great tranquil sea." T. L. C.

My last hurried letter was from Omaha. Beyond that thrifty, bustling young city—the future metropolis of the Missouri valley—I took a brief ride on the new Pacific Railway out into the valley of the Platte. On either side of the road lies the mile-deep prairie soil waiting to be "tickled with a plow that it may laugh with a harvest." Not one acre in fifty has been touched. This side of Fremont I looked from the window of Pullman's palace-car out over a broad level monotonous sea of rich prairie; not a knoll, not a house, not a fence, and not scarcely a tree in all the wide horizon. How God has been keeping that magnificent garden hidden from the eyes of civilization for fifty centuries! Is it not for "His Son for an inheritance"? Is not that rail-track the



highway for the King, over which He shall send His messengers to the ends of the earth and to them that are afar off upon the sea? Before this historic year of Presbyterian Reunion is over, a million of dollars should be pledged for Church Erection; and of this, a bountiful quota should be expended on the lines of the "Northwestern," "Rock Island," and "Union Pacific" Railways. In the East, towns made railroads; in the West, railroads make towns. And with the locomotive comes Methodism. Why should not our zealous brethren spur us on to a generous rivalry in the work of our common Lord and Saviour?

### NEBRASKA.

DEAR BANNER:—Please permit a friend, through the medium of your far-spread weekly visits, to gratify many inquiring friends, by replying to their inquiries in relation to Richardson County, Nebraska.

Be it known to all concerned, that in the course of human events the writer never was enamored with Nebraska as a State, being apprized of its bleak winters and the scarcity of fuel. However, in compliance with a call to labor as a missionary in the south-east county in the State, I find a beautiful country. There is no richer soil or milder climate in the State. However, there are some very sudden changes in the weather; for instance, on Sabbath morning, January 16th, it was quite warm and drizzling rain, but about 11 o'clock there was heard in the west the noise of a mighty, rushing wind, and in ten or fifteen minutes the whole atmosphere seemed changed. The afternoon and night were the stormiest and coldest of the season. And again on last Saturday, after a fortnight of very mild weather, it was so cold and stormy that I rode for miles with my eye-lids frozen together. These were uncommon instances.

Although the great Pacific Railroad does not run through Richardson

County, I am pretty sure that it runs through no superior soil in Nebraska. There is a railroad running from Burlington, Iowa, and westward bound; that passes through the whole length of the county, affording all the railroad facilities, East and West, that are needed. This road is completed from the Missouri river till within three miles of Falls City. The county is said to be the best farming county in the State, and is being improved rapidly. Property is advancing in price.

While I never advise my friends who are settled comfortably elsewhere to pull up stakes and emigrate to any new country, yet I would by this communication whisper to Presbyterians who are determined to migrate West, on all hazards, procrastinate not. Delays are dangerous. We want true blues—not drones. Now is the time to secure comfortable homes and prominent places in the church. Come determined to endure hardness as a good soldier. Come without delay. However, in your haste, be sure and bring your religion with you. Tradesmen of almost every calling are needed. I would especially invite competent physicians to come and cast in their lot with us. There are fine openings here and at Salem. Not because this is a sickly region, although people do sicken, and sometimes die, but because of the scarcity of competent doctors. Who among the doctors will come?

To all Presbyterians: When you arrive at Falls City, inquire for the Presbyterian minister, and do not give up the chase till you find him. In case of his absence, call upon Messrs. Fulton & Weaver, attorneys at law, who will assist you in selecting a home.

Yours respectfully,

G. McCONNELL S. . .

Falls City, Richardson County, Neb.



Crossing over the country until we reach the north-eastern portion of Nebraska, and come to the *Omaha* Mission, established 1846, and where the Rev. W. Hamilton is work. In this tribe are two distinct parties the progressive or Christian, and those who adhere to old customs and superstitious rites. The former are desirous for the improvement of the tribe, and show in their advancement over the other the elevating influence of truth. Among this portion the religion of Christ has manifested its power, and a church organized a year ago, contains some thirty-five members. The other party is opposed to evangelistic work, and through their agency mainly, though seconded by others, the Boarding-school has been discontinued since the last of September. This school, which was largely supported out of their annual funds, has exerted a happy effect over many but not to the extent it would, had it received the encouragement of the whole band and some of the agents of the Government. Mr. Hamilton will now be able to direct more of his labors, freed from the embarrassments of the school, to direct ministerial work.

## WINNEBAGOES.

Near to this tribe is that of the *Winnebagoes*, who are on land that once belonged to the *Omahas*. Experimental work was begun among them in the latter part of 1868. It was hoped that the way would be clear for establishing a permanent mission among them, and the Rev. Joseph M. Wilson was there with this end in view. He has, however, felt constrained to leave this field for another, and at present the mission is suspended.

Going south until we reach the Indian territory which lies to the west of Arkansas, and north of Texas, and we come to tribes where the gospel has shown its renovating and elevating power, and where are Christian people with their own government and laws. The Board has missions among two of the interesting tribes in this section of our country, though the third, and in some respects the most advanced of the tribes—the *Choctaws*—and where the Board had its largest operations, is now connected with the Southern Presbyterian Church.

**Otoe University.**—This is an Institution founded by our Church in Nebraska City,

Nebraska, which is slowly growing up into importance. Rev. J. C. Elliott is the President, with a number of assistant teachers. It has buildings suitable for its purposes in Nebraska City, which have been lately improved. A paper of that place, of a late date, says:

"It is in contemplation, as soon as possible, to provide the college with a library, a cabinet, and scientific apparatus. The students have already established a literary society and reading room, and have the matter of commencing a library now in hand. The site of the Institution is in the most beautiful part of the city, surrounded by native trees, good substantial dwellings, and land that lies handsomely for residences. It is near enough to Main street for all business convenience, and yet so much retired as to be free from all the noise and bustle of busy trade."

## NOTES FROM NEBRASKA.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN.]

*The Capital—The Churches—Want of a Church Building for Presbyterians.*

**Messrs. Editors**—Many letters are lying before me from strangers in various parts of the country, requesting information concerning Lincoln, the capital city of the State. I have thought that the Church might be interested in the progress of Presbyterianism in this region, and especially concerning the growth of our little church in this place. Hence these notes.

About two years since the seat of the State government was removed from Omaha to Lincoln. In the opinion of the wise in such matters, no more desirable site for a capital town could have been selected. It is, indeed, a beautiful spot. Fifty-two miles west from the Missouri river, it is situated in the midst of a fertile prairie country, well watered, and nearly every foot of which is susceptible of the highest cultivation.

The prairie is high and rolling. The soil is loose, sandy, loam, and from three to five feet in depth. There are no swamps, and only on the margin of the principal streams will you find any marsh or wet land. Salt Creek flows toward the north, a little west of the town, and furnishes not only very good water-power for machinery, but also twenty per cent. of pure salt. Lincoln now has a population of about two thousand, mostly composed of young people. The learned professions are well represented for the present size of the place. We have about twenty members of the legal pro-



17  
highway for the King  
fession in active practice; fifteen physicians, and nearly a dozen clergymen. Not all the latter, however, are engaged in the regular duties of their profession; some of them are seeking with great zeal, and I doubt not with right motives, to turn some of the Lord's money from the flood-tide of real estate into the channels of grace. We have already many fine residences. The Secretary of State, Hon. T. P. Kennard, and the State Auditor, Hon. Mr. Gillespie, are each about completing dwellings, the respective cost of which will be \$8,000. The residence of Governor Butler, nearly finished, will be over \$15,000. The Capitol is completed for present use, though not finished as to full plan. The design is similar to the Parliament buildings, London. The main walls are built of the dark brown sandstone found in the immediate vicinity in great abundance. These walls are faced, to the thickness of ten inches, with a fine quality of Magnesia limestone, nearly equal to marble. A large quarry of this stone is found near Beatrice, about thirty miles south.

Among the other public buildings, the Asylum, and the first of the University buildings, are to be completed the present season. The Burlington and Missouri Railroad will be in readiness for trains by the 1st of May; and before the end of the year the Omaha and South-western and the Midland Pacific will both be completed to this point.

I have thus briefly indicated a few of the more prominent features of interest connected with Lincoln, and which indicate grounds for future prosperity scarcely equalled by any town in the West, that the Church may perceive something of the great importance to the cause of Christ in securing a firm and prominent foothold in this city. The Methodist Episcopal Church and the Congregationalists have each built small houses of worship. The Protestant Methodists have part of a large edifice completed, which, as projected, will cost \$45,000. The Campbellites are building also, and have a house of worship nearly enclosed. We would not wish any to infer from this fact that the "*dip-theory*" prevails to any alarming extent in this region. It is a very "*healthy*" section, both physically and morally.

The Episcopalians and Baptists have organizations; and I believe nearly every known religious body has received a grant from the State of three lots within the city limits.

Upon these lots each church must erect a building, suitable for religious services, within two years from February 1, 1869, or the lots are forfeited. Our little church, through the kindness of Howard Kennedy, Esq., made a selection of lots near the centre of the city, at the intersection of the streets leading, on the one hand, from the Capitol on the east to the proposed Court House on the west, and on the other hand, the street leading from the University on the north to the proposed Penitentiary on the south. Each of these three lots is to-day worth one thousand dollars. To secure them, we must build a chapel this season. But we are a little flock, and we can only look, trust, and labor—resting upon the promise, "Fear not, little flock, it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." We are not insensible to the fact that, as a means of grace in this Western world, a neat little church building is often more effective than a good preacher; but our means (*financially*) are much less than our desires.

This Presbyterian church was organized last April by the Rev. J. C. Elliott, of Nebraska City. Only eight members formed this little vine, which we believe to be of Divine planting. Two more were added soon after, and on Sabbath, January 30th, eleven more were gathered in—one on profession of his faith and by baptism. We now number twenty-one members, and soon expect to receive ten or fifteen more, who only await the election of more elders. (Mr. Kennedy, our only elder, is necessarily absent.) We desire to return our thanks to the Board of Publication for their generous donation of two dozen "Social Psalmists" and the same number of "Children's Praise," received through the Rev. Sheldon Jackson. O that some power could make audible to the whole Church on earth the fervent ascriptions of thanksgiving which go up from these mission fields, when the little praying bands receive such gifts as this! I think such a voice would resurrect many a dead dollar for the Board which is scattering, as on the wings of the wind, all over the land leaves from the Tree of Life. And our Board of Church Extension, would that it could help us!

Have you, reader, ever *felt* the hunger of soul attending a deprivation of sanctuary privileges? Have you really experienced the *felicity* of a Christian soul, *hungry*, *thirsty*, for months, as it enters once more the house of



the Lord? Many the man in this Western the Lord? O, we learn not the church of his fathers! O we learn not how to prize even the blood-bought mercies of redemption until we have *labored, and fasted, and prayed* in the wilderness!

We are worshipping for the present in a public hall, and our services are well attended, but we feel that we need a more suitable tabernacle. We will look unto the Lord, from whom our help cometh—ever praying that He will raise up unto us friends who shall aid us in dedicating to His service and glory an earthly temple of sincere worship, and the home of many an earnest pilgrim seeking that city which hath foundations.

PARSON PAGE.

#### NEBRASKA, KANSAS.

The Second Presbyterian Church of Omaha, was dedicated on Jan. 16th, with appropriate services, the pastor of the church, the Rev. F. M. Dimmick, preaching an able sermon from Psalms xxvii. 4, and at the close giving a history of the enterprise. The organization was effected on the 23d day of December, 1860. Two hundred and thirty persons have joined the church since that time. Dropping those withdrawn and who have ceased their connection with the church, leaves a membership at the present time of 173. Three years ago last November the foundation of the new edifice was laid and building commenced, and with many struggles it has at last been completed.

Following this recital, the members, officers of the church, and congregation were called upon to rise, and the dedicatory ceremonies were read by the pastor and responded to by the members. Rev. Mr. Sherrill of the Congregational church, then offered the dedicatory prayer. The services ended by the singing of a selection by the choir, and the congregation joining in singing the long meter doxology. The congregation of the First Congregational church attended the above services in a body.

The new church will comfortably seat about 500 persons. Its cost is about \$40,000, and it is the largest and finest church edifice in Omaha, and a great credit to all concerned in its erection.

The audience-room of the new Presbyterian church, Omaha, Nebraska, will seat comfortably about five hundred, and is a very pretty room, lighted by gas from the ceiling—five reflectors and sixty burners, twelve burners to each reflector. It is by far the finest church edifice in Nebraska. It has cost about forty thousand dollars, and is not yet fully com-

pleted; there is some work to be done on the basement; and then an organ and a bell is needed. The church was organized in 1860 by its present efficient pastor, Rev. F. M. Dimmick, and he has received into it, in all, 231 members.

—The Rev. B. F. McNeil, who organized a church in Beatrice, Nebraska, a year ago, is actively engaged in pushing forward a house of worship with the help of good co-workers. Fifteen hundred dollars have already been raised and expended on it, with the probability of its early completion the coming season.

#### NEBRASKA LETTER.

##### Ministers Wanted.

MESSRS. EDITORS: — Permit me, through the medium of your paper, to make a plea for some of our feeble churches. Should you take a map of this State you would see on the Union Pacific Railroad, west from Omaha 130 to 170 miles, four railroad stations, Lone Tree, Good Island, Wood River and Gibbon. At each of these stations we have a church organization of from ten to fifteen members.

This Platte Valley for fertility of soil, health of climate, and excellence and abundance of water, I think is unsurpassed. So far as I can see the soil is as fertile as the best bottom lands of the Scioto or Miami Valleys. And instead of being two or three miles wide, as they are, this valley is from twenty to thirty, and all the Platte's numerous tributaries have valleys of about the same fertility.

The soil seems to be adapted to the growth of a great variety of productions. Wheat, oats, barley, corn and the vegetables all grow luxuriantly; and from the abundance of wild fruits along the streams we feel confident it will be a good fruit country. So far as it has been tried fruit is a success. These beautiful prairies, with their fertile soil, salubrious climate and excellent water, are attracting multitudes of emigrants in connection with the benevolent homestead laws for the benefit of the new



settlers. It is truly astonishing to see how rapidly this country is filling up, and as a general rule the class of settlers is of the best type—a far better class than generally comes to a new country. And now is the time for us to determine what shall be the status of our Church in this section. If as Presbyterians we are to have a good foothold in this beautiful country, now is our time. And the great thing that we need is good, earnest, godly men to man our principal points. Who will come and help us? The field is whitening, and now is the time to work. Many Presbyterian families are coming, they love their own church, and we owe it to them and the country to give them church privileges in connection with their own church.

We want earnest, self-sacrificing, godly men; and for the encouragement of such I will say, financially, ministers do well in Nebraska. Any one who desires information about any part of the field that is covered by my commission, Southwestern Iowa or the State of Nebraska, will please address me at Lincoln, in this State, and any information that I can give will be imparted.

N. C. ROBINSON.

### OCCIDENTAL NOTES.

TWO HUNDRED MILES WEST OF OMAHA—  
CHEAP LANDS AND GOOD HOMES—RAIL-  
ROAD MARCHES—PERSONAL AND CHURCH  
NEWS.

KEARNEY JUNCTION, NEB., }  
July 22, 1872. }

This village is on the Union Pacific railroad, two hundred miles west of Omaha, in Buffalo county, Neb. The town lots are not yet for sale. There is a station-house and a blacksmith shop, and houses for a few families erected. Adjoining this section are residences, stores, hotels, etc. One year ago scarcely a house could be seen except the one built by the railroad company to accommodate their workmen. Now every alternate section for several miles is occupied, mostly by soldiers of the late war, who have availed themselves of

the gift of 10 acres allowed by law. The railroad lands are mostly in the hands of speculators; some of them are selling at \$25 and \$50 per acre. The school section joining section one is appraised at \$100 per acre. Ten miles on either side of the railroad are government and railroad lands at \$2.50 for pre-emption, and homesteads of 80 acres each at fourteen dollars, and railroad lands at three to five dollars.

#### SPYING OUT THE LAND.

I understand that there is an excursion party to leave Mendota, in Illinois, on the 6th of August, to come by way of Lincoln to Kearney Junction, on the completion of the Burlington and Missouri railroad to this place. The bridge across the Platte is about finished, and construction cars are now running to it from below. Also the St. Joseph and Denver railroad is building at the rate of two miles a day. It will reach here in August, being now only thirty miles distant.

#### GAME FOR HUNTERS.

For the benefit of those excursionists it may be said, that on the south side of the Platte, a few miles from Kearney Junction, are herds of buffaloes by the thousand. There also may be found the Panama and Omaha Indians, encamped for the summer. The Indians and buffalo are on good terms, and dwell together in unity and good-fellowship.

I receive letters expressing surprise that a man between seventy and eighty years of age, so pleasantly situated in Illinois, should remove so far upon the frontier. I would simply say, that I could safely leave the presbytery of Ottawa, which was materially strengthened by the late union. So I thought Providence required me to resign the office of stated clerk, etc., and try a new field.

#### CHURCH NEWS.

A local preacher of the Methodist Episcopal church, came here about the time I did. As the inhabitants are not very numerous it was deemed best for the present to have but one congregation, so it was decided by the people that Mr. Moore preach one Sabbath on Wood river, some four miles north of this, and that I preach on the next Sabbath, and so on, at the junction, the landlord making room in his spacious dining hall, and so we have continued to do. Our Methodist friend has organized a church of sixteen members, who came with letters. We have not a sufficient number to organize. We shall shortly have a school-house in which to hold our meetings. I found here a union Sabbath-school, superintended by Colonel Patterson, assisted by Judge Collins. It is a very interesting society of young men and a few ladies. How many of them will take places in the church I can not tell.



It seems I came here none too soon. I feel strong and courageous, and though now

OVER SEVENTY YEARS OF AGE,

am willing and desirous to go forward in preaching the gospel while my Master requires my service. In the meantime He will sustain me. I have no fears on that ground, as I hope for the prayers of my friends that the everlasting arm be underneath me. I should here state that I have at my right hand a grandson, who is a graduate of one year, and a student in theology, who assists me in time of need, and whose labors are acceptable. I feel a strong desire that our cause here shall prosper, and can but hope that the readers of THE INTERIOR, who desire settlement in a rising city, should come and see for themselves. We want mechanics, merchants, and physicians. NAHUM GOULD.

### About Church Matters in Nebraska.

EDITORS OF BANNER:—Having completed a round trip of one hundred and fifteen miles, a young presbyter of the Presbytery of Nebraska City would detail a few of the things of interest of our first regular meeting. On Thursday, 10th inst., at 7 A. M., your correspondent was in the buggy with a fifty-five-mile drive before him. The roads and weather were delightful, and smoothly and enjoyably we wound our way down the valley of the winding Big Blue River. After disposing of the team and receiving some refreshments, we hurried to the church to listen to a sermon from the retiring Moderator, Rev. Henry M. Giltner, the first missionary of the State. Presbytery was constituted, and H. P. Peck, of Lincoln, chosen Moderator, and D. B. Fleming (late of Allegheny Seminary), Temporary Clerk. Fifteen of the sixteen ministers of the Presbytery were present, and a large representation of the eldership. Three of the number were received from other branches of the Church—one from the Baptist and another from the Methodist—after a thorough examination. Besides the general routine of business, much time was delightfully devoted to prayer and conference. The free conversation on the State of Religion of each individual church gave a full history of the operations and progress of the entire Presbytery. Notwithstanding the discouragements peculiar to a new field, the cause of Presbyterianism advances steadily, and is gaining in popular strength and tone. Several church buildings have been dedicated during the year, Sabbath Schools and congregations organized, and the Gospel carried to many out of the way.

A short time was also spent in the interest

of the Sabbath School department, which resulted in the adoption of a plan for a Presbyterian S. S. Convention in September at Seward, the place for the Fall meeting of Presbytery. Saturday evening we had a missionary meeting; our father missionary, a laborer here for eighteen years, introducing the subject by a rehearsal and comparison of his own stages of experience in the work. Your correspondent—a son to the former in age and experience—followed, calling attention to the bright luminaries among the laymen who had gone before to welcome the preacher of the truth as it is in Jesus. Two more addresses, and then Elder Allen, in his own entertaining style, referred to the growth of Presbyterianism around him as a nucleus, and urged the necessity of a diligent study of our doctrines and of personal presentation of the truth.

Rev. James D. Kerr and Elder — Gilmore, are our Commissioners to the General Assembly. The Presbytery is decidedly opposed to the Demission of the Ministry, preferring to have the minister himself ask for such a favor. On Sabbath the Lord's Supper was celebrated, and thus closed, said an aged minister, the most interesting meeting of Presbytery of his life. We believe that we and the church of Beatrice were mutually and specially favored by the presence of the Holy Spirit. Monday morning we all expected to repair to our homes. Rain and wind did not prevent the railway traveler. The rain was succeeded by snow, and in three or four hours even the extreme western part of the B. & M. R. R. was impassable. From ten o'clock on Monday until late on Tuesday the snow and wind were so violent that the oldest citizens of the State were out-experienced. On Wednesday morning I started to return home. A pretty strong north-wind, accompanied by snow, was to be faced. Occasional snow drifts and wind and slush much impeded travel, but at sunset I stopped for the refreshment afforded by a hotel and stable, thirteen miles from home and forty-four passed over. Everywhere the farmers were attending to the comfort of their stock, and many "dug-outs," used as houses and stables, were literally closed up. One man had to excavate himself by beginning the removal of the snow from the inside with his hands. At last I reached home, to find three or four hours' shoveling before the team could be supplied with a comfortable resting place. The weather is pretty again, and men and things are assuming more cheerful appearances.

I will close by stating that the interests of Zion are, generally speaking, gratifying in their character and developments; and only the baptism of the Spirit is needed to make these plains joyful in the praises of God.



## NOTES FROM NEBRASKA.

*Messrs. Editors*—A short time ago I took a little tour from Omaha through our State, to visit Seward, the county town of Seward county, to lecture there, under the auspices of our church, by the invitation of its active and successful pastor, the Rev. George B. Smith. The country in the vicinity is very beautiful and fertile, the valleys of the Blue River, of Lincoln, and other creeks converging near the city, and surrounded by gentle slopes, make as fine a landscape as can be found even in beautiful Nebraska. The Midland Pacific Railroad, which runs from Nebraska City through Lincoln, has its present terminus at Seward, but will soon go on to connect with the Union Pacific Railroad, probably at Grand Island. Seward is only four years old, and has now over fifteen hundred inhabitants. It is a great shipping point for wheat, which is fast becoming more important than corn in the agriculture of the State. Our church has a very strong hold and influence in this growing town. On my way I spent some hours in Lincoln with the Rev. H. P. Peek, the pastor of our church. The building has only been erected about four years, but this summer the congregation have spent about \$1,000 in enlarging and beautifying it, and it is now one of the handsomest church edifices in the State, and is not surpassed by any in the city. Lincoln has grown and improved till now it is a pleasure to the eyes to behold. Great taste is displayed in the residence and business buildings. A fine artesian well sends forth a constant flow of water in its public square. Two railroads connect it with the East—one *via* Omaha or Plattsmouth, the other *via* Nebraska City. It was encouraging to see that our church was prospering with the prosperity of our capital.

Saturday morning I took the train from Seward for Nebraska City, where I was to preach for the pastor, the Rev. J. D. Kerr, in exchange of services. At Lincoln many Grangers came aboard from a State meeting just held. Not only in the talk of the Grangers, but in the sights and sounds heard and seen at the stations and on stock-trains, it was evident that this was the season for marketing the *hog crop*, and as pork and

grain are advancing in price, the farmers are jubilant.

At Nebraska City I found old friends from my former congregation at Bath, New York, awaiting me, and spent a pleasant visit with them, talking of our many common acquaintances, the changes which time and death have wrought, and the favorable prospect for a new church edifice, which is sadly needed there.

Our church has prospered in that place greatly since the coming of the present pastor. Almost on the verge of a division, the old discords were healed by a revival, and now they seem firmly united, and very efficient for good. Mr. Kerr and myself have both been corresponding with the Rev. E. P. Hammond, with a view to a union effort in each city, for which all things seem now ready. Whether Mr. Hammond will come or not, is uncertain. Our ministers' meeting yesterday morning sent him a second hearty invitation to come to this place. There are indications of success in such an effort. Mrs. Van Cott labored with a marked degree of success in the First Methodist Episcopal church of our city, and a work of grace is in progress in the Second Methodist Episcopal

church, and there has been increased interest in the Congregational church.

We have here a ritualistic church, having for its rector the Rev. J. Pinckney Hammond, late of Germantown, Pa. Father Hammond, as he loves to be called, evidently strives to make his the rival of St. Clement's, Philadelphia. Early mass, midnight services, gay vestments, lighted candles on the altar, boy choristers, marching in procession out of the chapel, up the aisle, carrying the cross or banners, followed by the rector, confession, &c., would seem to indicate the direction in which the rector is going, and his church with him, even if he had not advertised a sermon some time ago with the title, "*The Protestant Episcopal Church not Protestant.*" You will see from this that we have even out here on the frontier all the modern religious improvements.

Our own church is not idle. Our excellent Synodical missionary, the Rev. N. C. Robinson, is planting churches and supplying them with ministers as fast as possible; and



in his journeys, confirming the churches; he makes an excellent bishop, and is a true successor of the apostles. In 1870 we had but a single Presbytery in Western Iowa and in all Nebraska; now we have three Presbyteries in Nebraska alone, and next spring expect to be formed into the Synod of Nebraska.

G. D. S.

## MISSION WORK IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

BY REV. R. L. STEWART, GOLDEN, COL.

The Reunion of 1870 gave a new impulse to missionary operations throughout the entire Church. A movement so grand and inspiring was naturally suggestive of grand enterprises of Christian evangelism. By a concentration of scattered resources and a combination of missionary efforts, the united Church was enabled to make a forward movement, from which may God grant she may never recede.

### THE MEMORIAL YEAR.

The "memorial year" which followed the consummation of this union was one of unparalleled prosperity in that most important aid to permanent mission work, church building. During that memorable year Dr. Jackson states that he secured from churches and personal friends for this object, over and above large grants made by the Board of Church Election, the sum of \$8,207.09. Under the new management some necessary changes were made in the grouping of mission fields, and, as a result, Nebraska and Dakota were cut off from this district, leaving Montana, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico under the supervision of Dr. Jackson, as before. In 1875 the Territory of Arizona was added to this field by enactment of the General Assembly. This is the Territory which is now covered by the Synod of Colorado; and there are few Presbyterians either in the East or West that have any adequate idea of its immensity and prospective importance. Extending from British America on the North to Mexico on the South, it embraces 18 degrees of latitude and 15 of longitude. This princely domain is "as large as the combined empires of Great Britain, Germany, France and Italy" (not including their co-

lonial possessions). It covers a field "ten times larger than all New England—a province larger than all the country between the Missouri River and the Atlantic Ocean from the Lakes to the Ohio;" comprising, in other words, nearly one-fifth of the entire area of the United States.

### WORK DONE.

Since 1869 a consecrated band of men have labored earnestly, in connection with the untiring Superintendent of Missions, to occupy and evangelize this vast and rapidly growing region, and the visible result has been the organization of sixty-seven Presbyterian churches and the erection of thirty-six church buildings. More than double this number of churches might have been organized during these eight years, if there had been any reasonable prospect of supplying them with the regular ministrations of the gospel. It has been the settled policy both of the Board and its coadjutors to occupy the central points in each of these vast regions. Whilst it is a wise policy, the sad truth should not be overlooked also, that those living in more remote regions and mining camps, and almost the entire country population of these Territories are still without the privileges of the gospel. This destitution is not owing to lack of energy in missionaries or superintendents of missions, but to lack of *means*, without which it is impossible to extend our bounds in any direction.

### SYNOD OF COLORADO.

The Synod of Colorado, which was formed in 1871, consists at the present time of the Presbyteries of Montana, Utah, Santa Fe and Colorado. All of these except the latter are *small* Presbyteries, but they are doing an important work for the Church which will one day be more fully recognized and appreciated than it is now. Where Presbyteries are small because they have no room to expand, they have no right to exist; but where they *ought* to be *large*, and are patiently holding ground which Synods will one day occupy, they have *rights* which the great Presbyterian Church is bound to respect. The Presbytery of Colorado was organized in November, 1869, but did not hold a regular meeting until February, 1870. At that time it numbered five ministers and eight small churches.



In May, 1876, about six years later, this Presbytery reported twenty-six ministers and twenty-eight churches, one licentiate, and one candidate for the ministry. (It might have sent four delegates, under existing rules, to the General Assembly in the Centennial year, but it was content with two.) Its contributions for all purposes, as reported last year, amounted to more than \$32,000. It is also a matter of thankfulness that we have at the present time a growing church in every prominent village and town in Colorado. In the other Territories there is evidence of progress equally gratifying, but the work in these has been of necessity confined to a few central points. It is something, however, that the blue banner of our Presbyterian host has been successfully planted in Mormon Utah and Papal New Mexico and Arizona, as well as on the rugged heights of Montana, Wyoming and Colorado; and that, by the co-operative work of the Church and School, a leavening influence is being exerted which is even now molding public sentiment and changing open opposers into ardent workers for Christ.

#### ACTING PROMPTLY.

The experience we have passed through as a Church, in connection with efforts put forth for the evangelization of our land, will be of little practical value if it fails to impress upon us the importance of prompt aggressive work. There is danger of a church becoming so firmly "established" in precise ways that it ceases to move. The minutiae of a successful campaign can not be written out beforehand. New and unheard of difficulties must be met with new and special methods. When we have no vast Territories to explore and conquer, no unseen difficulties to grapple with, no perplexing questions to solve in the absence of precedents, and in a word no pioneer work to do in new and unknown regions, we may dispense with such super-Presbyterian adjuncts as Synodical missionaries and the like, so essential now to a successful advance; but for the present we must make use of these or cease to be a mission church. But for the prompt action and unwavering devotion of our honored Superintendent of Missions (whose name is familiar to all the churches), we would have but

little Presbyterianism in these Territories to day either to be proud of or ashamed of. All honor to the noble men who seconded him in this glorious work both in the East and West; but none, I am sure, will accord more honor to him, as the moving spirit in this good work, than those who labored and sacrificed with him. It is easy to find fault—much easier than to breast the current and push forward aggressive work—and this good brother has not escaped the common lot of all fearless and energetic men. It would be strange, too, if he had not made mistakes in the midst of the perplexities and difficulties with which he was oftentimes surrounded; but when these are forgotten, his self-denying work for Christ in these Rocky Mountain regions will remain. I do not believe in the glorification of men, but it is a Scripture precept, "Honor to whom honor is due." The older ministers of this Presbytery can recall many an instance where churches were saved from failure and financial ruin by timely aid obtained from private sources through his efforts, while with few exceptions (three or four) he has assisted in this way, more or less, every church erected in this Presbytery since 1869. His main work, however, has been the exploration of new and unknown fields; preparing them for occupancy; harmonizing diverse and heterogeneous elements and organizing them into churches; securing acceptable ministers; counseling with reference to church sites and plans, and securing donations of land; strengthening and encouraging feeble churches; enlisting sympathy and help for suffering fields; conducting a well-known religious newspaper, and carrying on at the same time an overwhelming correspondence with individuals and societies in the interests of the Home Mission work.

#### DR. JACKSON'S LABORS AND PERILS.

In the prosecution of this work Dr. Jackson has traveled, from the spring of 1869 to January 1, 1877, 197,204 miles—a distance each year of a trip around the world. He has made three trips to Montana, each involving about 1,500 miles of staging; three trips likewise to New Mexico, one continuing across Arizona to the Pacific Ocean, two of these involving more than 2,000 miles of staging and horseback riding each.



Those who are familiar with the physical hardships and dangers incident to travel in a new and sparsely settled country, and only those, can form an adequate idea of the amount of suffering and fatigue which must necessarily be crowded into such trips. With all this amount of travel, by rail, by stage, on horseback and on foot, it is not surprising that he "should meet with many experiences that fortunately do not ordinarily fall to the lot of a minister." I can not better describe this feature of the work than to give an extract from the closing words of a brief review of his labors, etc., which was furnished by request of the Presbytery of Colorado: "With the Apostle Paul, your Synodical Missionary can truly say, 'In journeyings often; in perils of water'—fording rivers, sometimes swollen with sudden rains; once compelled to get out into the freezing water and break the ice that had frozen out from the bank so that his horse could get through. 'In perils of robbers.' Five times has the stage been stopped and robbed by highwaymen, just before or after he passed over the route. 'In perils by my own countrymen.' Once the trembling of the finger alone stood between him and instant death as a half-dozen revolvers were pointed at his breast—or when lying down at night upon his revolver with the strong conviction that he might wake to struggle with the Mormon assassin; once a fanatical Pa-

pal mob were called upon to hang him, and at another he was taken to prison for the gospel's sake. 'In perils in the wilderness,' as again and again he has been lost on the plains or in the mountains—sometimes in blinding snow-storms where others have perished, or among the trackless mountains of Arizona without food or water; again and again fighting the prairie fire that swept wildly around him, or fleeing before the roaring blast of a wall of fire madly leaping from pine to pine along the mountain side. 'In perils by the heathen.' Riding one long summer day with rifle across the knee momentarily expecting the attack of the savage Sioux; and again upon the Upper Missouri, where the steamer was fired into by the hostile tribes that inhabit the banks of the river; at another time avoiding the murderous Apache on the war-path

23  
and saving his scalp by fifteen hours. 'In perils by wild beasts and venomous reptiles; in perils by land and by sea, in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fasting often, in heat and cold.' Again and again crying out in the agony of physical suffering for grace and strength to endure to the end." "Such is a feeble delineation," he continues, "of the life of your Superintendent for the last seven years. At times feeling that the burden was too great; that it could no longer be carried; that it was more than should be asked of one person; that he had done his full share of rough work;—and then chiding his unbelief and gathering new strength and courage at the cross of Christ, he has pressed forward again, thankful for the privilege of laboring and suffering for Jesus."

This extract speaks for itself. I have referred to it, not for the sake of reflecting honor upon the labors of Bro. Jackson, but in order to show that *aggressive* work under such circumstances means suffering, and toil, and peril. It is meet that those who sympathize with this noble work, and give of their means to aid it, should know at what expense these triumphs for Presbyterianism and Christianity have been won; and it is for this reason that I have been prompted to write this brief sketch.

#### THE RESULT.

What the result shall be when these infant churches and Presbyteries shall grow into maturity and spread abroad "until the work of each shall meet that of his brother on the other side," it may not be ours to see; but as surely as God reigns, that time is coming on apace, and coming through the instrumentalities and prayers of these faithful men who braved every difficulty and danger that this great and ever-increasing population might be saved for Christ and his Church.

The history of our Home Mission operations in the past century of our national life is full of thrilling instances of devotion, and sacrifice, and unremitting toil for the Master's sake; and it is pleasant to record the fact that the last decade of this rounded century has been closed in the same heroic, aggressive spirit with which the first began. Then the blue pennon waved from the summit of the Alleghenies,



while earnest men peered anxiously forward into the unknown region beyond; *now* it floats from the summit of the Sierras—the last stronghold of the enemy—and waves responses to embattled hosts, from the Atlantic to the Pacific shore, on either side. The question is no longer, Shall we advance? but, Shall we occupy? From God in history and God in his providence we get the command, as the watchword of this new century—"Close up the ranks;" "Hold fast that which thou *hast*, that no man take thy crown."

## NOTES FROM NEBRASKA

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN.]

Lincoln, January 31, 1871.

*Messrs. Editors*—I write with much pleasure to inform you that this Western land is being rapidly settled with an enterprising and energetic class of people. Many of them are from the "*far East*," but the majority from the "*interior*." Like pioneers in every land, most of our people bring with them little money, but a wealth of vigor and a warmth of heart truly astonishing. Lincoln, the capital of this youngest of the States, is scarcely three years old, yet is already quite a "*city*." We have at the present writing nine church buildings, seven hotels, all the State buildings, and a population of over three thousand inhabitants. These public buildings are all of respectable appearance, and many of them as fine as any in the West. Our State University has just been completed at a cost of \$152,000, and the Asylum for the Insane, built of brown sandstone, at an expense of \$120,000. The penitentiary is in process of erection; the capitol is completed for present use, at a cost of \$80,000. These buildings, and others in contemplation, are and will be erected at the expense of the State, and from the sale of lands granted for these purposes. The citizens of Nebraska are not taxed one cent for these improvements. Thousands, knowing these facts, are flowing into the country, and settling upon our broad, fertile prairies. We are here to meet them with a pure and powerful gospel. But we cannot meet the requirements of the case *alone*.

Now, in the general meaning of the term, this is not a "*begging letter*." I wish to call attention to a few facts, hoping some of your many readers will think of this far-away "*Border Land*," and remember us with prayers and pennies. There are many "*settlements*," numbering from twenty to fifty

families, scattered all over these virgin plains, which are without any gospel, except that of Mammon. Now and then an aged man, some "*grandfather*" in Israel, has brought his "*family Bible*," and gathers his household and a few of his neighbors around him—now and then on the Sabbath—to read God's Word together; and in earnest prayer to recall the scenes of early days, and renew their strength by waiting on the Lord.

Very many of these people are Presbyterians. Ten—yes, twenty missionaries are really needed to labor within the bounds of this State. Young men, full of courage and the spirit of the Lord, could, in His name, do valiant service in this field. Will not our brethren of the older States remember us in the "*Memorial Fund*?" I appeal to you in the name of Jesus, and plead not alone for the cause of our dear Church, but for the glory of Christ in the salvation of souls. I plead for the hungry, the thirsty, the dying; I plead for this young State, just beginning to feel its strength, as the life-blood of the Union is at this time imparting a new and vigorous impulse.

The cause I plead is not alone the cause of humanity, but of Christ. Now, if ever, is the time to conquer this land for Jesus. Infidels, skeptics of every grade, foreign and domestic; Pantheism, Rationalism, Liberalism of every shade and shape, all settle down upon the fairest portions of our heritage, and find in the spirit of these pioneers the fiery energy they require to harden and destroy, but which elsewhere they hardly find.

I know that these appeals are frequent, and always made with earnest feeling. They come up from every quarter of this broad domain. But the half cannot be told by the little band of missionaries which the Church sends forth. Virtually, we are but as spies in the land; we tell you of the rich and glorious clusters, and plead with our leaders to come and possess the land.

Now, will not some of our churches remember Nebraska in their contributions to the "*memorial gift*?" Help our Board of Domestic Missions to send, and sustain for a time, active, pious men in these wilderness places. There is no reason why, in three years' time, many of these waste places shall not praise God in the beauty of holiness. Help our Boards of Church Erection and Publication to build homes for God's house-



less ones, and to plant the tree of life in every hamlet. O! we need these church buildings, and a religious literature, as you, my brethren in the large cities of the older States, need hospitals and medicines for the perishing.

I am sure it would move your hearts to pity, and mayhap your eyes to tears, could you behold the trials, the efforts, the persistent sacrifices of God's little ones in this region to maintain the privileges of religious worship. Give us means to buy bread, or send us men, and houses, and books—the leaves of that tree ordained for the healing of the nations. God's little ones meet in “*dug-outs*,” mere caves dug in the hills—or they will travel miles over bleak prairies in this inclement season, to worship the God of their fathers in some little lo' school-house—or they will even worship in the main room of some *ranchman's* “hotel,” looking back along the years the while, and remembering Jerusalem, the Zion of their early years. Brethren, “come over and help us.” Brethren, “pray for us.”

The Rev. H. P. Peck was elected pastor of the First Presbyterian church of this city on the evening of January 26th. This little church has increased from nine to fifty-one members during the year; thirty were received on certificate, and fourteen on profession. A building has been erected, costing nearly \$6,000. A Sabbath-school library and nearly one-half the sum required for the building were given by a good Christian brother in Baltimore. We take this opportunity to send our grateful acknowledgment to our Board of Church Erection for its aid to the extent of \$1,000; also, to our Board of Publication for books contributed; and last, though not least, to that Sabbath-school in Philadelphia whose gifts have been most thankfully received, though the donors are to us unknown.

PARSON PAGE.

## NOTES FROM NEBRASKA.

[CORRESPONDENCE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN.]

*A Church Dedicated—Services—Communion.*

Lincoln, Nebraska, Oct. 12, 1870.

*Messrs. Editors*—Permit me to inform your many readers that this little capital city has a Presbyterian church. We have not only a name, but a local habitation. This is an accomplished *fact*. After many days, with much

labor, many prayers, much solicitude, and a firm trust in God, the little flock in this prairie wilderness has at last a home.

The dedication services were deeply interesting. The presentation of a house to God is always a solemn service, but when it is remembered that little more than a year ago less than ten Presbyterians could be found in this whole region, the gift to God of a beautiful house, by fifty earnest souls, was an event of peculiar rejoicing, attended by special solemnity. Two years ago the first church building was erected in Lincoln, and now we number six edifices where the truth is taught as it is in Christ. Rome has a little chapel here also, but is doing little as yet. It is generally conceded that we have the most beautiful building in the State for the money expended. It is 31 by 53, in Gothic style, with heavy corner tower, stained windows, choir and pulpit in the same style. It will seat conveniently two hundred and thirty, and is heated by a furnace in the basement. The total cost of the building was \$5,300. One thousand dollars were donated by the Board of Church Erection, and twenty-three hundred dollars by a Christian gentleman residing in Baltimore. May God's richest blessings rest upon him, and may he feel assured of the prayers of this people, whom he has so generously assisted. And may God bless the Boards of our Presbyterian Zion in their efforts to subdue this land for Christ.

On Sabbath, 9th inst., this little house of worship was given to God. The Rev. T. H. Cleland, Jr., of Council Bluffs, Iowa, preached the sermon from John xii. 31, 32. Many of the resident clergy were present, and assisted in the services. The house was given to God amid tears of joy and heartfelt praises from all the people. We all regarded our little chapel-home as another external evidence of the triumph of that uplifted Jesus, whose attractive power had been so ably exhibited in the dedicatory sermon. Feeling this drawing power, and to give expression to its influence upon our hearts, our first service in the new building was a union communion at three o'clock P. M. Around the cross, in the house of the Lord which we had been permitted to give Him, we gave ourselves anew to his work and worship—all hearts drawn nearer to Jesus, and therefore nearer to each other. In this way, through the religion of money—consecrated riches—and the power of the



cross, "the wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose."

PARSON PAGE.

For the Presbyterian.

## THE HOME FIELD.

### How a Church is Raised Up at the West.

A missionary in Nebraska writes as follows: At the first the people came to the railroad for me, a distance of twenty-five miles, and then would bring me back again after the Sabbath. This was done several times, making a journey of one hundred miles to get me to and from my appointments. At the time of the organization we met in a little room about sixteen feet square. It had neither doors nor windows, and was only in fact weather-boarded but in part. It was a cold, windy day, and this was the only place where we could be accommodated with a room in all that community. Our services were necessarily lengthy; but as I was encased in a good warm overcoat, well buttoned, and was constantly exercising in speaking, I kept from suffering. But how the people could endure it I am unable to say. They did bear it, however, bravely, and without serious damage.

When the weather became a little warmer we held our services under some large elms on the banks of the Nemaha creek, or river. The missionary went there about a year ago, and at once began to agitate the subject of building a church. At first, however, he had to build a roof to cover his own head. One of the brethren shared his own rude dwelling with him in the meantime, for three or four weeks. Finally, with hard work and many discouragements, the little house was so far completed as to afford them a partial covering and shelter from the approaching winter. They occupied it for a dwelling, and at the same time for a church during the winter, and this spring went on with the church building. It looked like an almost hopeless task for so few and so poor a little band to undertake the work of building a church. Most of them lived in little houses; some of them quite rude and uncomfortable. They were compelled to wear their old clothes—ladies with hats and bonnets several years behind the fashions, and men with their old soldier over-

coats that they wore years before on the battle-field.

But they *needed a church*, and in the face of all the discouragements *they determined to have it*. They raised on the field what they could, and then applied to, and obtained from the Board of Church Erection five hundred dollars. Never was there a gift more worthily bestowed or more thankfully received. I cannot speak too highly of the self-denying labors of the pastor in accomplishing this work. He has toiled night and day, working with his own hands, and with his own team, to supplement his meagre salary, and to get a shelter for his family and a place of worship completed. He still lives in an unfinished and uncomfortable little place, hardly worthy of the name of a house; but the church is finished and dedicated. There is another that deserves honorable mention. I refer to one of the elders. The other elder is too aged and infirm to do much, except by his subscription, and his prayers and counsels. But the first mentioned elder has a family of six children to support. He has plenty of land, but as yet it is new and unproductive, and he lives in a small, uncomfortable house on a very small income, and in the most economical way. The burden of church building has fallen chiefly upon him. Last spring he planted his corn; and as he had no help, not a plough nor a hoe has been put into it from that day to this. He has studied, and planned, and economized in every way to accomplish the grand end in view—the completion of the church. He and his family have worn their old threadbare, out-of-date clothes, and every available cent has been put into the church. Twelve times, I think it is, he has gone to Nebraska City, twenty-five miles distant, for material for the Lord's house, carrying his own provisions with him, and sleeping under his wagon on the damp ground, and sometimes in the rain. If God rewards the giving of a cup of cold water, I am sure such self-denial and such labor will not be forgotten.—*Presbyterian Monthly Record*.

**Wahoo, Nebraska.**—Rev. F. B. Welty, formerly of Evanston, Wyoming, has taken charge of the Wahoo and Marietta churches.

1874



**Churches Organized.**—A Presbyterian church of twelve members was organized at Avoca, Iowa, on Sabbath, July 24, by the Rev. Melancthon Hughes, and the Rev. Geo. R. Carroll, District Secretary for North-western Iowa.

—On Sabbath, July 24, the Rev. Sheldon Jackson, assisted by Mr. Josiah Welch, licentiate, organized a Presbyterian church of nine members at West Point, Nebraska. West Point is a flourishing county seat and railroad town. The labors of Mr. Welch among that people have been much blessed, and very general regret is expressed that he must so soon leave them to return to the Seminary.

—A committee, consisting of the Rev. T. H. Cleland, Jr., Rev. George R. Carroll, Rev. Sheldon Jackson, and Mr. Thomas J. Sherrard, organized a strong Presbyterian church in the country, six miles east of Council Bluffs, on Sabbath, July 21. This enterprise is the result of the efficient labors of Mr. Sherrard during his Seminary vacation.

—The Rev. Mr. Dimmick, of Omaha, Nebraska, has resigned his connection with the Second Presbyterian church of that city.

#### NEBRASKA.

From another and distant portion of our field comes the following entertaining letter which was sent from Omaha some time since, but for which we have not before found a place. Writing from this miniature Chicago, our correspondent says:

Omaha is a great town. Sixteen years ago it numbered one inhabitant. The name of that man is Hon. A. D. Jones. He was then its first postmaster and his *hat*, its first post office. It was not so much on account of *letters* that Mr. Jones became a government officer, as his title to a "claim" taken at this point. A thousand Omaha Indians contested that "claim." It was a beautiful tract of land, shelving from the high plateau to the very edge of the Missouri, thickly set with trees. Of course Mr. Jones could not yield his "claim." But how is he to hold it? Lucky thought! "I'll get a post office and I'll be post master," says Jones, and he succeeded. The American flag was there, and all the Indians of the plains could not tear it down. That very year they sold the ground on which the city rests for *ten dollars*.

The first meeting of the Nebraska Legislature was held in this place, December, 1854. It is said many districts were represented which had no inhabitants, and that the representative from Archer county resided in *St. Joseph, Mo.*, and while a mem-

ber here obtained a ten days' leave of absence to run as candidate for the legislature in Kansas!

All this sixteen years ago.

What was then *E-ro-ma-ha*—"up the river"—an Indian camp, is now a city of twenty thousand, rejoicing in the sobriquet, "Central City of the Republic," with city railways, first-class hotels, and fifty thousand dollar churches.

Horace Greeley said, in 1900 Nebraska would have a population of *five millions*. He evidently had run his eye over these rich vales and table lands. He saw the portals of commerce open to the young, inland State on every side. He saw her grain-burdened trains, parting, like the rivers on her mountain borders, and moving off to the different oceans. There can be no doubt about the great future of Nebraska. A more important question to us is, shall *our Church* keep pace with its growth? We know it ought, and we believe it will. A few more such men as Rev. Sheldon Jackson on this field, with God's blessing, will insure the work. We met him at his home in Council Bluffs, Iowa. He is a small man, and wears spectacles, but is one of the largest missionaries we ever saw, and sees like a telescope!

Within the last year he has organized twenty-six churches, procured for them eighteen ministers, secured the donation of twenty-two church lots, and saved for the missionaries, in commutation fare on the railroads, over one thousand dollars. His field of missionary operations includes Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Montana, and Dakota, too large for any one man. On this, in all, he has organized about sixty Presbyterian churches. He is the right man in the right place. Every dollar given him in this cause, in addition to that appropriated by our Boards, will help to carry the gospel over his field. His address is Council Bluffs, Iowa.

The history of our Church in Omaha presents a fine illustration of what persistent effort and perseverance can do under difficulties. Here it is. It was organized by Rev. F. M. Dimmick, December 23, 1860, with twenty-four members, and began in the Congregational church, where services were held until the Spring of 1861. From thence it went to the Baptist church-room one year; thence to the Court House hall about three years; thence back to the Congregational church; thence back to the Court House hall; thence back to the Congregational church; and from thence, reckoning by weeks, just eight years to the hour, from the time of organization, it went into its own new Presbyterian church edifice, recently completed at a cost of nearly \$40,000, with one hundred and seventy-five members. Yet, after all, Mr. Dimmick, who is still the pastor, told us what we have no doubt is true, "that if the Board of Church Extension had given them \$1000 at first, it would have saved for this Board and that of Domestic



Missions \$4000;" all of which is a very strong practical argument for helping weak churches procure a house of worship in our growing towns as soon as organized.

West of this point our churches are prospering. Rev. H. E. Peck is doing a good work at Lincoln, where they soon expect to erect a church edifice. Rev. J. C. Elliott is succeeding well with the Otoe University. Sheldon Jackson is looking up Columbus. Along the Pacific Railroad from here towns are literally leaping into existence, and the lands of the road are rapidly selling to settlers at from \$2 to \$20 per acre.

Among some of the interesting personal items that have been communicated to us are the following:

Rev. Edward E. Bayliss is at Corinne, Utah, where it is proposed to organize a Presbyterian church.

Rev. W. S. Messmer has arrived on his new field at Montana, Iowa.

Rev. J. S. Dunning, of Vinton, has agreed to take charge of our church in New Jefferson, Iowa, next July.

For the Presbyterian.

1870

## SYNODICAL PROCEEDINGS.

### SYNOD OF IOWA SOUTH.

This Synod met in the Central church of Des Moines, Iowa, on the 13th inst., at 8 P. M., and was opened with a sermon from 1 Chron. xii. 32, by the Rev. H. H. Kellogg, convener.

The next morning the roll of the Synod was made out, containing one hundred and twenty-four ministers and one hundred and seventy-three churches. The roll was called, and seventy ministers and twenty elders were found present.

The Rev. H. H. Kellogg was chosen Moderator, the Rev. W. G. Craig Stated Clerk, the Rev. W. B. Noble Permanent Clerk, and the Rev. T. H. Cleland, Jr., Temporary Clerk.

The Synod was divided into Presbyteries, as follows:

1. *Iowa*—Consisting of the ministers and churches included within the counties of Lee, Van Buren, Davis, Wapello, Jefferson, Henry, Des Moines, and the townships of Marshall, Morning Sun, Wapello, Jefferson, and Elliott, in the county of Louisa.

2. *Iowa City*—Consisting of the ministers and churches included within the counties of Scott, Cedar, Johnson, Iowa, Poweshiek, Keokuk, Washington, Muscatine, and the remaining portion of Louisa county.

3. *Des Moines*—Consisting of the ministers and churches included within the counties of

Jasper, Polk, Dallas, Guthrie, Adair, Madison, Warren, Marion, Mahaska, Monroe, Lucas, Clarke, Union, Ringgold, Decatur, Wayne, and Appanoose.

4. *Missouri River*—Consisting of the ministers and churches included within the remaining counties within our bounds in the State of Iowa, viz: Audubon, Shelby, Harrison, Pottawattamie, Cass, Adams, Montgomery, Mills, Fremont, Page, and Taylor, the State of Nebraska, and the Territory of Wyoming.

The Presbyteries were ordered to meet on the 15th, at 8 A. M., and complete their organization.

A paper was offered by the Rev. J. D. Mason concerning the Five Million Memorial Fund, recommending the adoption of the circular of the General Assembly's Committee, as expressing the judgment of the Synod upon the subject—enjoining the action of Presbyteries, ministers, and sessions, in furthering the raising of this Fund; and asking for the appointment of a committee to aid in carrying out the views of the Assembly's Committee. The paper was adopted, and the Rev. H. H. Kellogg, the Rev. W. G. Craig, and Colonel William Thompson, were appointed as the committee.

Upon the subject of Home Missions the Synod was thoroughly awake and in earnest. All felt that in our widely-extended territory, rapidly filling up with population, there is a great work to be done, which demands our greatest diligence. Railroads are multiplying, towns are springing up, and opportunities are afforded for the planting of churches.

In the language of the Committee who reported on this subject, "What we do must be done quickly." These precious opportunities, if not speedily improved, will pass away, and we will be left to deplore our sluggishness, and reap its bitter fruit in the low estate of our beloved Zion. In view of these considerations, Synod resolved "that we regard the employment of two Synodical missionaries as indispensable to the successful prosecution of the missionary work within our bounds." The Synod was, therefore, divided into two districts—the eastern comprising the Presbyteries of Iowa, Iowa City, and Des Moines; and the western the Presbytery of Missouri River. The Rev. William Campbell, of Adel, was chosen Synodical missionary for the western division, and the Rev. J. D. Mason, of Davenport, for the eastern, for the coming six



months, to be succeeded at the expiration of that time by the Rev. W. B. Noble, of Fort Madison. These brethren were recommended to the Board for commissions.

After transacting other business of local importance, Synod adjourned to meet in Council Bluffs on the third Thursday of October, A.D. 1871. CLERK.

P. S.—The number of ministers in the several Presbyteries, as reconstructed, is as follows:—Iowa, 32; Iowa City, 34; Des Moines, 30; Missouri River, 28. Total, 124.

**Churches Organized.**—A Presbyterian church of fourteen members was organized on Sabbath, June 26th, at Ashland, Nebraska, by the Rev. Sheldon Jackson, assisted by Mr. S. A. Shaver, licentiate, through whose labors the church was gathered. Ashland is a flourishing county seat on the line of the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad, Nebraska division.

—The organization of a Presbyterian church at Corinne, Utah, was completed on the evening of the 14th inst. The services were conducted by the Rev. E. E. Bayless, minister in charge, and the Rev. Sheldon Jackson, Superintendent of Missions. This new enterprise greatly needs a church building, to place it on a permanent footing. Who will enable the Board of Church Erection to build the Presbyterian church edifice in Mormondom?

—The Decatur and Logan Creek churches are rapidly completing their houses of worship.

—The Rev. F. L. Arnold, of Marengo, Iowa, has taken charge of the churches at Laramie and Rawlin Springs, Wyoming Territory.

#### NEBRASKA.

**Fresh Workers in the Field.**—Rev. J. B. Long of the last class of the Northwestern Theological Seminary, has taken charge of the churches of Tekamah and Bell Creek, Neb.

Messrs. Annin and Eastman, middlers of the same Seminary, have taken charge of Bellvue, Grand Island, and North Platte, Neb., for the Summer.

Messrs. McCuskey and Darley of the same Seminary, are also at work in Nebraska.

## MEETING OF PRESBYTERIES.

### THE OMAHA PRESBYTERY.

We have been for two days in the midst of Summer. The Missouri river has been rolling its muddy waters over its banks on towards the ocean. And last night at midnight, on our return from the meeting of the Omaha Presbytery at Onawa, Iowa, we found it an insurpassable barrier to our reaching home. Consequently we were obliged to return to Council Bluffs, and again try the passage this morning—in which attempt we were more fortunate.

Onawa is about forty miles below Sioux City, where Rev. Wm. Pelan resides, our very efficient and honored ministerial brother who labors with the church there, and also with the one at Missouri Valley, some thirty-five miles below, at the junction of the and N. W. and the Sioux City and Pac railroads. We have added to our Presbytery during the past year, Revs. John L. Gage, A. T. Wood, and Alexander Sutherland. The latter is a very much respected brother from Pictou of the British Lower Provinces, and now doing a good work among many of his former people, who have come out to this new country and formed a colony at Schuyler; on the U. P. R. R. some forty-five miles west of Omaha. We have received under our care three new churches, and the interests of our branch of the Church have been advanced. We are getting a good working force into this broad field, stretching west from the Missouri River. There must be already in the field north of Kansas, and west of Iowa, some twenty-five to thirty-five Presbyterian ministers, and the number will be greatly enlarged the present season.

Last year I travelled nearly or quite eight hundred miles in my attendance of Synod; and the year before the trip was equally extensive, but not so difficult and tedious, on account of a less number of changes than last year. We cannot afford to attend Synod very often under such circumstances. We have, however, the utmost confidence in our Committee, and believe they will recommend the very best plan, when they shall be fully advised in regard to the new and rapidly enlarging fields beyond the reach practically of the present organization. Fraternally,

F. M. D.

Omaha, April 13th, 1870.



# A CORRECTION.

While on this subject of our churches along the line of the Pacific, we will introduce the following letter from Mr. Kephart, in which he corrects some of the statements made in his communication published in THE INTERIOR of April 28. He says:

Since my letter to THE INTERIOR, in relation to the moral destitution along the U. P. R. R., I learn that I was mistaken somewhat, and as I have received the paper containing that letter, I take the liberty of asking you to make the correction. There are, in addition to the churches and ministers mentioned in my former letter, Rev. Jos. M. Wilson, at Columbus; Rev. W. B. Sutherland, at Schuyler, and Rev. S. Annise, at Grand Island and North Platte. Revs. Wilson and Sutherland, I learn, have been on their fields since last fall.

This doubles the number of ministers given in my former letter, and gives an addition of three churches. Still, it leaves a sad state of moral destitution. Bro. Jackson has been active and indefatigable in his work, since I came to this field, both in this Territory and Colorado. But he has doubtless many difficulties to contend with, not the least of which, perhaps, is too large a field of labor. My own impression is, that there is work enough in Wyoming and Colorado alone, to occupy the time and tax the energies of any one man, if well done.

I make the above correction the more cheerfully, because your editorial remarks accompanying my former letter might be construed into a reflection upon Bro. Jackson's faithfulness to duty, which I do not suppose you intended.

## A Picture of South-western Kansas.

BURLINGAME, Kansas, Oct. 18, 1870.

DEAR BANNER:—Going to Presbytery in Kansas is somewhat different from my pleasant jaunts in Ohio. Fortunately for me, I live on a railroad, and the Presbytery met in a town on the same road, distant about forty miles. As I went, I did some missionary work. After a ride of nearly twenty miles over the prairie, frequently not a house to be seen, though miles of country were in sight all the time, I stopped at a town three months old, containing about a dozen houses. Was met by a young man who took me over the prairie nearly four miles, passing but one house until we reached his home. His mother greeted me with the salutation—"Welcome to Kansas! Have not seen or heard a Presbyterian minister since we came here." The family had arrived in April, having left a very com-

fortable home near Williamsport, Pa. Here they have a large farm that has produced them almost nothing this year, two horses for work, and three cows. They have the shell of what may be made a very comfortable house.

In the evening they took me to a school-house, where I preached the first sermon ever preached in that neighborhood by a Presbyterian minister. I lodged with a young couple from Madison, Wisconsin. There are in that neighborhood about twelve church members, hungry for the Word. Most of them have just arrived, and are as yet without the comforts, or rather the necessities of life. The regular old Jayhawks don't have, or at least, feel any necessities, and despise luxuries. I was told of one old resident, wealthy, who has not a chair in the house. He has a three-legged stool; says that it once was a chair, but his wife broke it beating the cow. The Wisconsin family told me that the family who preceded them in their house (a large frame), had a hole in the floor, through which they poured the swill into the cellar, in which they kept their hogs; the chickens roosted in the garret, and they kept the horses in the room on the opposite side of the hall!

From that place I rode in a buggy over the prairie fifteen miles to Emporia. For ten miles there was not a house. The town we found to be a live place of 2,500. They are putting up some fine business houses. The Presbyterian church meets in an upper room. It was the first regular meeting of the Presbytery of Emporia. After sermon the Moderator constituted Presbytery; asked the Stated Clerk to call the roll; he declared a quorum—three ministers and two elders. There were two ready to unite, and there were two visitors.

Our field is the south-west portion of Kansas. In all that vast territory, we have but eight organized churches, and two of them but six members each. When we met, we found there was not a settled pastor in the Presbytery. The church at Emporia presented a call for the services of Rev. Albert McCalla. Presbytery appointed his installation for Sabbath evening. The installation took place at the time appointed. He is the first pastor of that church, and the first in the Presbytery.

We met on Thursday evening, as remarked above, with but three members present. We received two. There were three more living



down near to the line of the Indian Territory. We learned that there had been heavy rains in that direction, and that streams were impassable. We remained in session until noon on Saturday, when, giving up all hope of their arrival, we adjourned. At four o'clock two of them arrived, one having traveled with his pony team, his wife and three children, one hundred miles. The other, father Gordon, who is sixty-two years old, had ridden seventy miles. When I met Bro. Boggs, from Wichiter, and learned that he had traveled a hundred miles to meet us, I felt very sad. He lives on the Arkansas River, in a new town, growing rapidly. His church is composed almost entirely of young men. I understood him to say that there was but one family in the church beside his own. No wonder that his wife was willing to take such a ride, that she might meet her sisters in Christ. Neither is it any wonder that she wished her children might get a glimpse into civilized life. Another object of the journey was to lay in stores for the Winter.

On Sabbath morning we had communion—a pleasant and profitable season; in the evening the installation services. The attendance was good, notwithstanding that it rained incessantly from Saturday evening until Monday morning. Monday morning, still raining, I made my way to the station, and had a pleasant ride home; more pleasant, because of the contrast between my journey and that of Bro. Boggs, who had to transport himself, family, and Winter supplies, one hundred miles through the mud.

Now that I am at home, and have time to think, I see that we have a noble field; but how to cultivate it I see not. For myself, I have an important point, and there are points around that might be reached, had I the means to do it. Supposing that the Church meant this work should be done, I have taken hold, bought a horse, and prepared to do my best. Now comes the word that no aid can be had. I must sell my horse, and must either abandon the field, or by some employment make my support. To me personally, it is not a matter of much importance; but can the Church afford to let her mission fields lie waste? The District Secretary was present at our meeting. His presence was almost essential, and was worth to the Board more than it cost. There are a great many ways in which he stops leaks, besides preparing the way for the missionary. How welcome the

Banner in this distant place! When lonely and sad, it is sweet to see its familiar face and con over its contents.

This service of our Lord is a blessed service; but, like him, we must pass through solitude and conflict. It is good for me, though painful, to leave my sweet home, loved church and brethren, for these wilds. The solitude of the prairie is sweet, compared with that of the street, and the multitudes that love not Jesus. With God's blessing, I will help to subdue this land to Christ. SELMA.

### Kearney Presbytery

Met in Plum Creek, Neb., Sept. 17. This town is on the U. P. R. R., 230 miles west of Omaha, and the county-seat of Dawson County, a large and fertile county in the Platte Valley principally. In Plum Creek there is as yet no house of worship. Our church had \$900 subscribed toward the erection of one, but had to defer the matter until next season. The Presbytery was opened with a sermon by the retiring Myderator, Rev. Chas. S. Marvin. Rev. Geo. W. Newell was elected Moderator. The second evening Rev. Jas. A. Griffes preached. Since the spring meeting four churches have been organized, and there is an immediate prospect of several more. Our licentiate, Mr. E. N. Lord, is doing a good work in the Republican Valley. Rev. Chas. Marvin was dismissed to the Presbytery of Des Moines. The Presbytery is able to report a warm attachment upon the part of the churches for Presbyterianism and a commendable zeal in Christian work. The five ministers who make up the Presbytery have each large fields to cultivate, but they are hopeful and prayerful. They ask the Church East to increase rather than diminish her contributions to the mission work in this State and elsewhere, where drouth and grasshoppers have made the people very poor.

GEO. A. HUTCHINSON, S. C.

### NEBRASKA.

Nebraska is a State six years old, having been admitted to the Union in March, 1867.

It lies directly west of Iowa, the dividing line being the Missouri River.

It is the thirty-seventh, and the youngest among the United States, but in June, 1870, it already had a population of 122,993, and has room for

32  
twenty times as many.

Those thousands have resorted to it, most of them within the last three years, because of its position, healthfulness, beauty and productiveness.

The valuation of property for taxation in 1869 was forty-two millions; in 1870 it was fifty-three, showing an increase of twenty-five per cent. in twelve months. It has no public debt.

Its position is the most central in the Union. The longitudinal line running midway between Washington and San Francisco cuts it into two parts, almost equal. It also lies midway between the mouth of the Mississippi and the head of navigation on the Missouri. As to latitude, one-fourth of it lies south and three-fourths north of New York City.

Extending from the Missouri River westward, nearly to the Rocky Mountains, it has an extreme length of about 400, by a width of about 200 miles, or about 50,000,000 acres of the best agricultural lands on the American continent,

"During the last decade," says the *New York Tribune*, "Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Texas and California have been the most thrifty States; though we judge *Nebraska* likely to show as large per centage of increase as the best of them during the next ten years." More than one-third of all its homesteaders and pre-emptors have entered *Nebraska* since New Year's, 1870.

The two great railways of the State are the Union Pacific R. R., and the Burlington and Missouri River R. R. The Union Pacific extends for nearly 500 miles through the broad rich valley of the Platte, along which the company has a land grant from five to fifteen miles wide. See their advertisement in another column. The B. & M. R. R., also, has millions of acres of

fine prairie lands for sale.

The illustrations of *Nebraska* scenery in several numbers of this paper are from along the line of this road. *Nebraska* is increasing very rapidly in population. Immigration is rolling in a constant stream. Town and villages are springing up and rapidly growing in size and influence. And extensive and valuable farms are being opened on every hand. Nor has the Church been idle. Four years ago the Presbyterian churches of *Nebraska* were connected with a Presbytery in Iowa; now they have three Presbyteries and a Synod to themselves. Rev. N. C. Robinson is the efficient superintendent of their missions. His post-office address is *Nebraska City, Neb.*

#### FROM NEBRASKA. 1874

DEAR EDITOR:—We are sure of something, namely, if the ministry read the paper you send to the whole body of our ministers they will be informed of some of the demands of this period. And again, what responsibility rests upon those who do not faithfully present to their charges the claims of Zion throughout the world, and especially the claims of our own land. There is nothing so encouraging in the progress of our church work as an intelligent conception of the work exemplified by systematic giving. The Minutes of the General Assembly show us clearly what ministers and churches properly estimate this. Some give to so few of the Boards, and some so meagerly, when we carefully consider their financial and numerical position. Sin lieth at the door, and self has not been denied, so that there is a following of the Lord wholly.

In the frontier portion of our Church there is a certainty as to two things. 1. Ministers laboring with beneficiary congregations do much hard work,



33  
make many sacrifices, and are worthy of their hire; and, 2. These beneficiary congregations are liberal in their financial support of the means of grace to an exemplary degree. This latter fact is well shown when we compare the contributions of those who have been trained in the West and those who have lately come out from the East, or from other shores. In the West they train themselves to give abundantly of their poverty, and not of their surplus, as is so generally done farther East. I reluctantly receive the amounts offered me as salary from some of my congregation. I never knew such a state of things in the region in which I was reared. There two-thirds of the families could give twice and four times the stipends they do give, and ten times the amount to the Boards of our Church, and not feel it.

If the ministers in Nebraska could take some of their families and hold them up before the *able, independent* churches, the debt of a hundred thousand dollars of the Home Board would be canceled at once. Seeing, they would believe and act.

Grasshoppers, drought, and inability of the Board to meet quarterly payments speedily, embarrass the missionary and discourage the people. Our commissioner to the Assembly pledged our Presbytery for \$75. Notwithstanding the calamities which we are experiencing, we cheerfully raised it at our first meeting of Presbytery. We felt it; some did it with a depleted purse.

The crisis of our beloved Zion can be met. There is no doubt of it. But how? Let every minister and church session lead off, and at the same time impress the people with the nature of the work, and then keep it up as long as God gives them life, and the result *is reached*, and no crisis need be feared in the future. Tell the rich the Lord

wants of their abundance and the poor of their poverty. Peter's pence will go far with the favor of Almighty God. Tell them the Church is advancing, the enemy is retreating, Zion is throwing up her walls and bulwarks; that more men and more money are needed to carry on this war, or the forces of Immanuel must ingloriously retreat, discouraged and enfeebled; that the Home Missionary is from their own Presbyteries; his families are from the poor (sometimes richer) though noble of their flocks. You, fathers, brethren and sisters, can help us and our flocks, and through the Church raise up fortresses which shall be immovable in stemming the tide of unbelief overrunning our land.

GEO. B. SMITH.

1874  
**Fremont, Nebraska.**—In your issue of Jan. 14th, among the religious items, a letter above the signature of N. C. Robinson attracts my attention. It has reference to the (so-called) progressive movements of the Presbyterian Church organization in Nebraska. I do not know the wants of other places in Nebraska, but would call your attention to the spot he particularizes as an *important point*, viz: Fremont, Neb. Fremont, a town on the U. P. R. R., forty-seven miles west of Omaha City, has a population of about two thousand inhabitants, with fair prospects of growth and improvement, but still, to the religious community in general, things would not seem to indicate that the time is come for a movement of this kind. Already we have five orthodox churches—among them the Congregationalist, cousin-german of the Presbyterian, and largely composed of original Presbyterians. This church was organized fifteen years ago, and for the past two years, through the unremitting efforts of the present pastor, has been self-sustaining.

And now, when remoter unoccupied places so much more need gospel privileges and influences, this effort to establish one so similar to that in existence, to the



34  
looker-on wears the aspect of rivalry rather than pure Christianity. It draws money from a treasury supplied by the contributions of the benevolent of all classes, many of whose donors are poorer than their recipients, while its tendency is to weaken and depress a sister church, which has just struggled to a living basis. If the inquiry may be considered relevant, may I ask here what is the *object* and aim of the Home Missionary Society—is it to use its means in projecting the Redeemer's kingdom into fields from whither the Macedonian cry floats back in tremulous appeals, "Come over and help us," or is it to expend them in building up every branch of the Church by making a spiritual battle-ground of territory to all appearance preoccupied by other evangelical denominations?—*Herald and Presbiter.*

**West Point, Neb.**—On Sabbath, July 24th, Rev. Sheldon Jackson, assisted by Mr. Josiah Welch, licentiate, organized a Presbyterian Church of nine members at West Point, a flourishing county-seat and railroad town of Nebraska. Mr. Welch's labors in that section have been much blessed, and very general regret is expressed that he must so soon leave for the seminary.

**New Church.**—A committee, consisting of Rev. T. H. Cleland, Jr., Rev. Geo. R. Carroll, Rev. Sheldon Jackson, and Mr. Thomas J. Sherrard, organized a strong Presbyterian Church on Sabbath, July 31st, in the country, six miles east of Council Bluffs.

This enterprise is the result of the efficient labors of Mr. Sherrard during his seminary vacation. Our correspondent did not give us the name of the new church.

**Rev. Sheldon Jackson**, having been recommissioned District Secretary of Presbyterian Missions for the Rocky Mountain Territories, would request correspondents to address him at Denver, Colorado.

#### NEBRASKA.

Four young men from the Theological Seminary in Chicago have gone to this State, and have entered upon their work with the cordial sympathy and support of the people. J. C. Eastman has gone to Bellevue, Samuel Annin to Grand Island and North Platte, Wm. H. McCuskey to Madison county, and J. B. Long to Tekama and Bell Creek.

#### LETTER FROM NEBRASKA.

RED CLOUD, Webster Co., Neb.,  
July 20, 1874.

I have recently enjoyed a privilege so rare, and its results so interesting to me, I have thought it might interest some of your readers. On the 8th of July I drove into Nelson, the county-seat of Nuckolls County, with my missionary outfit. I found it a small place indeed for a county-seat. There is a single store, hotel, court-house, blacksmith shop, and five or six dwelling-houses only in sight, and a school-house nearly finished. The county, though one of the finest in the State, is very sparsely settled, because most of the land is owned by the railroad and speculators.

Very soon after I reached Nelson found there had never been a sermon preached in the place, and that there was no church organization in the county, except what is called a Christian Church, some eight miles from the county-seat. An appointment was made for preaching in the court-house three remaining evenings of the week, and on the Sabbath, and inquiry was made to see if the material could be found for organizing a Presbyterian Church.

The wife of the merchant was the only Presbyterian in town, but the teacher was educated in that denomination, and desired very much to have a church organized, that she might make a profession of faith in Christ, and let the world know that she had recently been led to embrace him as her only Savior.

An intimate friend of the teacher, a young lady of earnest, consistent piety in another denomination, wished to enjoy church privileges with us, till she could have those of her choice. Here, then, were found three ladies only. What should be done? The teacher knew of two Presbyterians, one eight



and the other ten miles east of Nelson, who would be likely to unite in the organization if they only knew of it. No time was to be lost. The mules were harnessed, and a twenty-mile ride was taken on Saturday afternoon, but the object was gained. Both individuals approved of the organization, and spoke of others who would gladly join us, but it was now too late to notify them so as to have them present the next day.

This visit settled the question about a church organization, and although there were only five members, it was a beginning in the right direction. Interesting meetings were held on Friday and Saturday evenings, also Sabbath morning and evening, and at 2 P. M. the first Presbyterian Church in Nelson, and the first evangelical church in Nuckolls County, was organized.

Who says Presbyterians are not pioneers? They sometimes, at least, preach the first sermon in a county-seat and organize the first church. I wish they did it far oftener than they do. And why should they not? No system is better adapted to pioneer work than our own, and the preaching of no denomination more popular. The liberality of the Presbyterian system, in connection with its stability, makes it deservedly popular wherever it is known. Why, then, should there not be more of our ministers at the *very front*, doing their full share of the missionary work?

I have great expectations of the little church formed in Nelson. The members seem to feel the responsibility of their position, and seem determined to leave no duties unperformed. The teacher, without a word of advice or exhortation, the next morning after she united with the church, began to read the Bible and pray in her school. The only members of the church, within ten miles of the county-seat, are females, and yet they desired an appointment

made for a weekly prayer-meeting, and gave the assurance that it should be sustained. The only family altar in the place is sustained by a lady whose husband is not pious.

Such examples will tell in their influence on others. I was rejoiced also to learn that no liquor is sold in the county, and the proprietors of the county-seat will not sell a lot to any one who will engage in this degrading employment. Surely there is encouragement to labor for the upbuilding of Christ's kingdom, where there are so many things to favor. A good, earnest, faithful minister is urgently needed to supply this church and Edgar, a town sixteen miles distant, and on the St. Jo and Denver Railroad, where a church could be organized at once, with from seven to ten members.

Who will come and occupy these places, and help to plant the gospel in this beautiful and healthy region? Any minister desiring to labor in such a field may address Rev. N. C. Robinson, Secretary for Home Missions for Nebraska, Nebraska City, or D. W. Montgomery, Elkton, Nuckolls Co., Nebraska. The tent work is full of hope and encouragement.

S. G. CLARK,

Children's Miss. Tent Preacher.

Rev. Sheldon Jackson, Superintendent of Presbyterian Missions for the Northwest, will preach next Sabbath morning and evening at the Congregational Church. Business men and citizens interested in the welfare of the city are particularly invited to attend the evening service.

Rev. Sanders, of West Point, gave us a call last Saturday. Hereafter Rev. Sanders will favor the Germans of Fremont with religious services, and we are glad that a man of so much ability and energy takes hold of the matter of organizing a church here.



## SYNOD OF NEBRASKA.

According to the order of the General Assembly, of May, 1874, the Synod of Nebraska was opened with a sermon, by Rev. Nahum Gould, from Hosea viii. 12: "I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted a strange thing." He then constituted Synod with prayer.

Rev. John T. Baird was elected Moderator, and Rev. James A. Griffiths and Mr. C. P. Dick, Temporary Clerks.

The Presbytery of Kearney overtured Synod in favor of a Synodical College. Liberal propositions were made by the people of Hastings, Nebraska, on condition of its location in that vicinity. Mr. Carothers, of Springfield, Ohio, made generous offers if it should be located at Beatrice, Nebraska. While commending these efforts and returning thanks for the propositions made, Synod declined in present straits to assume any financial responsibility.

Rev. Dr. Dickson, Secretary of the Board of Home Missions, being present, earnestly and eloquently presented the importance, claims and necessities of the

Home Mission work. From its very position and configuration, from the history of its settlement, from the character of its institutions and people, and from other circumstances, he proved the value of our country as a base of operation against the irreligion and heathenism of the world. He explained how the resources of the Board of Home Missions were diminished, while the demands upon it were being increased.

He therefore urged the supreme necessity of exercising self-denial, of using to the best advantage all the facilities afforded, and as far as possible uniting feeble churches in contiguous neighborhoods under one pastorate.

The Narrative of Religion, within the bounds of Synod, says that twenty years ago the name of Presbyterian, by organization, was unknown in Nebraska. Now there are enrolled 33 ministers, 1,700 communicants, and 2,500 Sunday-school children. Without any special awaken-

ing, steadily has the work gone forward, and nearly every church has reported souls hopefully converted, backsliders reclaimed, and those who have cast in their lot with us have renewed their relations to Zion. The Presbytery of Kearney has increased its membership fifty per cent. during the past six months. So far as we can learn, 250 have been added to our communion since the last report to the General Assembly.

Synod answered favorably an overture of the Presbytery of Kearney which requested that the entire services of Rev. N. C. Robinson, as Synodical Missionary, should be secured. This action was taken because the extent and rapid growth of the field required all his labors and he was thought to be peculiarly fitted for the work.

Rev. S. G. Clark presented an interesting and encouraging account of his labors in tent preaching on the frontier. He was recommended to continue the work under the care of the Presbyteries.

The following paper was adopted:

WHEREAS, The Reports and Estimates of the Committee of Benevolence in the General Assembly of May, 1874, were altered just before the adjournment of the Assembly, so that the amount apportioned to the Board of Home Missions was reduced from \$470,000 to \$400,000, and this amount distributed among the other Boards; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, 1. That this reduction of the amount unanimously reported by the Committee of Benevolence indicates at least a lack of knowledge and appreciation of the importance of the work of the Board of Home Missions, of the wants of the newer States and Territories, and of the fact that this work is fundamental to the whole work of the Church of Christ, and, therefore, auxiliary to the work of the other Boards.

*Resolved*, 2. That in the judgment of this Synod the springing of such important action, as the reduction of the estimates reported by the Committee of Benevolence, upon the last day of the Assembly, when so many delegates had gone home, and when so much haste was inevitable, was unwise, as leading to crude and inconsiderate legislation, and is a precedent to be noticed only that it may be condemned and avoided in the future.

JOHN T. BAIRD, Stated Clerk.



Library of Sheldon Jackson  
*presented to the*  
*Historical Society.*  
*Quincy, Kansas*



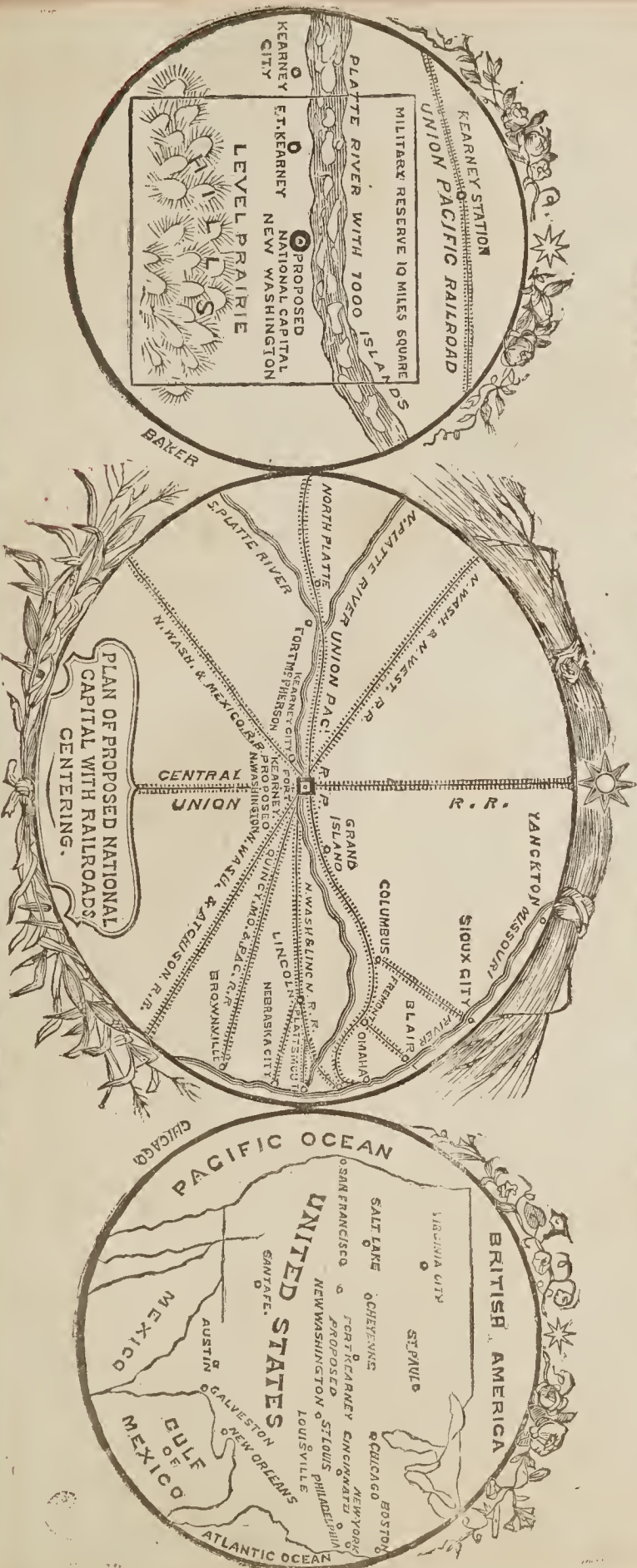
# THE GREAT STAR

A GUIDING STAR FOR ALL PEOPLE.

NO 14.

FORT KEARNEY, NEBRASKA, MAY 6, 1870.

VOL. 1



THE GREAT STAR, THE GREAT STAR, THE GREAT STAR.

Sta 10252



